

Hafa Adai!

Man allegedly plunged GF's face in toilet. **PAGE 2**

Hotel occupancy at 21% in March 2022. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 69

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2022

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In fiscal year 2023, 25% of government retirees' pensions would be completely dependent on the casino Business Gross Revenue Tax, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

'Retirees' 25% pension completely dependent on casino BGRT in FY23'

In his fiscal year 2023 general revenue estimates submitted to the Office of Management and Budget on March 22, 2022, Atalig noted that should this source of revenue (casino Business Gross Revenue Tax) reach a standstill, it would be essential for the CNMI to fo-

cus on other avenues for revenue generation.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC closed its casino in Garapan starting March 17, 2020, as part of the



Atalig

effort to control the COVID-19 outbreak. On April 22, 2021, the Commonwealth Casino Commission board indefinitely suspended IPI's gaming license until it complies with CCC's

orders pertaining to five complaints filed by the CCC executive director.

The estimated gross operating resources for fiscal year

2023 is \$150,415,492. Minus \$49,062,925 in debt service payments, that means the net budgetary resources for fiscal year

See **RETIREES'** on **Page 4**

IPI outlines array of new revenue, funding sources

» **Says outstanding license fees could be repaid in bid to save Saipan casino**

By **BEN BLASCHKE**
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission

The parent company of Saipan casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has outlined

several new sources of revenue and funding as it looks to avoid revocation of its Saipan casino license and resume operations at Imperial Palace Saipan.

Ahead of a meeting with

See **IPI** on **Page 4**

FBI: 4 elderly victims of cyber fraud in NMI in 2021

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nationally the CNMI ranked 57th in 2021 among states and territories that reported incidents of cyber fraud among victims over 60 years old, with records showing four victims and a total of \$3,000 in fraud losses. In comparison, Guam ranks 55th nationwide with 16 victims over 60 years old and \$1.58 million in fraud losses.

American Samoa, on the other hand, ranks 56th with seven victims and a total

See **FBI** on **Page 4**

» **FBI official says number of elderly victims of fraud nationwide has risen at alarming rate, loss amounts even more staggering**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

GCEA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

TanHoldings Corp. president Jerry Tan, who co-chairs with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, presents a video report during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom yesterday. The video report highlights the accomplishments of the GCEA in 2021.

LEIGH GASES

Story on **Page 2**



Rep. Camacho now faces possible aggravated assault and strangulation charges

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution in the case

against Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) wants to amend the initial complaint against the lawmaker to include ag-

gravated assault and battery and strangulation, which would essentially turn the offense into a felony instead of a

misdemeanor.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the Office of the Attorney General's criminal

division has filed a motion asking the court for leave to amend the Information filed

See **CAMACHO** on **Page 4**

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Bank of Guam will now begin accepting applications for their 2022 Ifit Scholarship.

Page 11

WORLD

Investigators document killings of unarmed civilians and other alleged war crimes in Ukraine.

Page 13

ENVIRONMENT

The community is being invited to a meeting about the Sugar Dock rehabilitation project.

Page 14



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Man accused of plunging girlfriend's face in the toilet

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on a man accused of trying to flush his girlfriend's head down their toilet in a fit of rage.

During a bail hearing last Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio kept the \$50,000 cash bail initially imposed on Jo-

seph Seman for the charges of disturbing the peace to include domestic violence, assault and battery, aggravated assault, and strangulation.

Seman was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody following the hearing and was ordered to return on April 13, for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for April 18.

According to court docu-

ments, Seman, 32, has allegedly been beating his girlfriend for some time and even attempted to flush her head in their toilet because she made a noise while getting out of bed to use the restroom, which woke him up.

These were all learned after Department of Public Safety officers responded to a domestic violence complaint around 2:30pm last Monday, April 4.

At the scene, police met with the female caller who was calling from Jin Li Store to file the complaint against her boyfriend, Seman.

Responding officers said they observed that the woman's bottom left eye was swollen and red.

The victim said that Seman punched her face at about 5pm on Sunday, April 3, and told her that if she ever tells anyone

about the abuse, he'd kill her.

On April 5, investigators met with the victim again for a follow-up interview where they learned more about Seman's alleged abuse. The most recent incident allegedly happened on March 29, prior to the victim calling the police.

The victim said she had woken up to use the restroom and her bedroom door made a squeaky noise, causing to wake Seman up. Seman angrily told her that she shouldn't be making a noise.

Then, while the victim was using the toilet, Seman allegedly entered the restroom and slapped her on the head, yanked her hair, and used both his hands to push off the toilet.

The victim said Seman then instructed her to put her face in the toilet and when she did so, Seman flushed the toilet

twice before threatening to kill her brutally and that he would send the video to her mother.

The victim said she was initially supposed to go to Guam on Wednesday, March 2, but Seman did not allow her to leave Saipan because she had a lot of bruises on her body. Seman allegedly took the victim's passport, social security card, and PenFed card and refused to give them back to her.

On Sunday, March 13, the victim said she cooked noodles for Seman and he complained that they were dry before throwing the bowl of noodles at her face.

After that, Seman allegedly got up and used his right leg to kick the woman on the left side of her stomach about 10 times while also using his right hand to punch her.

See MAN on Page 4

Saipan Chamber's general meeting highlights GCEA accomplishments

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers and its accomplishments in 2021 took center stage yesterday at the general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with GCEA co-chair Jerry Tan sharing a vision of transforming the Marianas into a world-class destination within a decade.

Tan, who is president of TanHoldings Corp. and co-chairs the GCEA with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was also at the meeting, said that making the vision a reality is a long-term plan that requires thoughtful visioning and careful planning. It requires commitment, cooperation, and support from everyone in the Marianas, he added.

"...GCEA's vision to build the Marianas to become a world-class destination [is] not only for our visitors but most especially for everyone who calls the islands home. Our goal is to achieve this together within the next 10 years. ...It won't happen overnight, but to get there, we have to achieve milestone after milestone toward this goal, and we believe that together, we can!" he said.

Tan presented to the crowd a video that highlights the GCEA's 2021 report booklet, covering the council's first full year of operations in 2021. "When we first formed the council almost two years ago now...at the beginning of the pandemic, we really don't

know actually where to start. ...And almost two years later, we still have a lot of uncertainty. But one thing from the video that we see, and most of us at the council are from the private sector, we really have to come together as a community. We can sit down and complain every day all we want. But, at the end of the day, we need to work with the government," said Tan after the video presentation.

The series of recommendations by the GCEA last year included the creation of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority; launching the Marianas Pride Campaign; the Tourism Resumption Investment Program; encouraging interisland transportation; supporting the commercial fishing industry in the CNMI; and establishing a destination transformation partnership program.

Among the outlook and opportunities presented for the proposed 10-year plan are: alternations to the immigration transition period, vocational training, tourism resumption and infrastructure, re-engaging the Japan market, building of quality and safe road infrastructure that supports a healthy population and economy, complete streets, and bike lanes.

In a later interview with Torres about the revival of the Japan market, he said, "We want to focus on bringing back the Japanese market and are communicating with the MVA Japan on the opportunity to start that dialogue again."



Rotary COMMUNITY EGG-STRAVAGANZA
Easter EVENT!

Egg hunt for the following age groups:

- Toddlers (Ages 1 & 2)
- Pre-School (Ages 3-5)
- Elementary (Ages 6-10)
- Middle School (Ages 11-13)

Bring Your Baskets!

Designated areas per age group.
Toddlers will be assisted by parents.
Parents are advised to arrive earlier than the start time.

After Egg Hunting,
join us at the NMI Museum
for food and even more activities!

Saturday, April 9, 2022
Start Time: 9am
Sugar King Park (Across Golds Gym & Garapan Central Park)

thank you to our partners

Over 500 Goody bags while supplies last. Bouncy house/slides, over 18 vendors, lots of prizes to claim from the eggs.

Rotaract
Club of Saipan



Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club



Sponsors: Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Micronesian Air Cargo Services, LLC, Bridge Capital, LLC, WESTCO-Western Sales Trading Company, DM Sablan Holdings DBA: Youth Empowerment Solutions and Ininan I Marianas, Wushin Corp., Dickerson & Quinn, Micronesian Brokers, McDonald's Saipan, Tang's Corp., Joeten Kiyu Public Library, TK Corp., Lollipops Inc., National Office Supply, Monster Pizza, Ete Café, Miss Earth Org., Islas Creations, Cia's Creations, Thrift with Tee, Bonita Basula, NMI Artistry, Paopao, Pho King A, Mix n' Macs, Seasoned with Hafa Adai, Mind2Muscle, Marianas Inflatables, Chic with Carm, Candle J Saipan, Crafty Baeker, Cherrymoon.co, Neni Girl Nails, Island Hop, Lynn's BBQ, Dommy's, Chowtime, Rendezvous, Chiku Chiku, Baban Bishu, Meals for U, Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Vice-Speaker Jonathan "BJ" Attao, Floor Leader Ralph Yumul, Representative Vicente Camacho, Representative Corina Magofna, Representative Denita Yangetmai, Representative Joseph Flores, Representative Lee "Pan" Guerrero, Representative Angel Demapan, Representative Roy C. Ada, Representative Ed Propst, Representative Celina Babauta, Representative John Paul Sablan, Representative Richard Lizama, Representative Leila Staffler, Representative Sheila Babauta, Mr. & Mrs. Sean Ficke, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Morendie Aguon, Linda Torres, NMC OSAL, CNMI Homeland Security, and Tanapag Youth Center.

Entertainment provided by: Marvin Deleon Guerrero, RJR Band.

For More Information, Contact Rotarysaipan@gmail.com.
Director Of Community Service Joann Aquino At (670) 285-6961
or Secretary Jessy Loomis At (670) 789-1228

HANMI occupancy at 21% in March 2022

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 21% average occupancy rate among its 12 member-hotels for March 2022, compared to 7.25% average occupancy in March 2021.

A total of 9,655 of 41,093 available room nights sold during March 2022, compared to 2,495 of 34,421 available rooms sold in March 2021. Average room rates were \$142.13 compared to \$144.08 last March.

"March was another month of movement in the right direction toward recovery of the Marianas tourism economy," said HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho. "Compared to March a year ago, our members report over 7,100 more room nights sold, over 260 more employees back to work, and almost four times more hotel occupancy tax generated. We also need to be aware of all the other taxes and economic activity that hospitality generates."

Quichocho also serves on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors and is chairman of the CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program.

Vandalism at Kobler church



On April 3, 2022, at about 7:22 a.m., the Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at the St. Jude Catholic Church on Saipan. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, police met with the caller and noticed a broken window and a brick next to a pile of broken glass. Police logged this case and began to investigate.

On April 5, 2022, DPS received a call from an anonymous caller stating that a boy named Byron Deleon Guerrero who resides in the village of Koblerville, damaged the church window.

In an interview with Deleon Guerrero, he admitted to damaging the window on this occasion and several times in the past. When asked why, Deleon Guerrero stated that, "there is nothing to do."

This case has been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General. (PR)

"Our members know there is a long road still ahead in living with the 'new normal' of travel after the pandemic, but at this time we are seeing light on the horizon," said Quichocho. "We are looking forward to increasing bookings moving into summer, especially as Korea

has eliminated quarantine for inbound travelers to Korea, making it easier for their residents to travel. Also, the MVA's Japan TRIP Plan Ad-

hoc Committee is working very hard and targeting summer 2022 for the return of Japanese tourists."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan,

See HANMI on Next Page

TRIPLE J SAYS **Yes!**

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

QUALITY USED CARS

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT



SALE PRICE \$18,995

STK: 21D019C
38,500 MILES
KBB: \$19,253

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4WD



SALE PRICE \$49,995

STK: 17P347
28,265 MILES

2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT



SALE PRICE \$22,995

STK: 16P375
70,152 MILES
KBB: \$23,499

<p>2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$11,995</p> <p>• 85,600 MILES • STK: 21D127A • KBB: \$12,589</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI KONA</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p> <p>• 24,415 MILES • STK: 21D129A • KBB: \$19,455</p>	<p>2018 HONDA CIVIC EX</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$22,995</p> <p>• 28,988 MILES • STK: 22M032A • KBB: \$23,426</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$27,995</p> <p>• 29,277 MILES • STK: 18HS988 • KBB: \$28,829</p>
<p>2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p> <p>• 69,682 MILES • STK: 21M012A • KBB: \$15,515</p>	<p>2016 MAZDA MAZDA6</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p> <p>• 52,907 MILES • STK: 16P380 • KBB: \$20,065</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA RAV4 LE SPORT</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$22,995</p> <p>• 34,800 MILES • STK: 21D106A • KBB: \$23,760</p>	<p>2017 HONDA CIVIC COUPE</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$28,995</p> <p>• 30,501 MILES • STK: 17P403 • KBB: \$29,176</p>
<p>2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p> <p>• 5,800 MILES • STK: 18HS101 • KBB: \$14,778</p>	<p>2016 FORD EXPLORER XLT</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p> <p>• 38,752 MILES • STK: 16R266 • KBB: \$22,827</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA C-HR</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$24,995</p> <p>• 24,765 MILES • STK: 22H160A • KBB: \$26,363</p>	<p>2019 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$28,995</p> <p>• 27,000 MILES • STK: 22H021A • KBB: \$29,936</p>
<p>2018 KIA FORTE LX</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p> <p>• 16,939 MILES • STK: 18HS920 • KBB: \$18,632</p>	<p>2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$21,995</p> <p>• 50,501 MILES • STK: 16P374 • KBB: \$23,203</p>	<p>2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$26,995</p> <p>• 33,682 MILES • STK: 22M050A • KBB: \$27,271</p>	<p>2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$33,995</p> <p>• 15,260 MILES • STK: 18P344 • KBB: \$34,836</p>
<p>2015 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p> <p>• 47,100 MILES • STK: 15P325 • KBB: \$20,295</p>	<p>2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$21,995</p> <p>• 17,200 MILES • STK: 21D078A • KBB: \$23,225</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div> <p>CLICK PICK DRIVE</p> <p>GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS IS NOW FASTER AND EASIER!</p>	

ONLINE SHOPPER

WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

TRIPLE J MOTORS

www.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.com

Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau

Sales Office: 234-7133 • Parts & Service: 322-7134

✉ autosales@triplejsaipan.com

OPEN Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm

*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500.

Hofschneider declines House clerk's 30-day extension request

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying she was only given 48 hours to correct the deficiencies the Senate clerk had found in the House of Representatives Impeachment Record, House clerk Linda B. Muña requested yesterday for a 30-day extension to have the deficiencies remedied. Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), however, took that as “insulting,” noting that the House was given 25 days to submit a simple and easy-to-follow format.

In a letter yesterday to Muña, Hofschneider said the Senate will proceed with the impeachment process as required by the Impeach-

ment Rules.

Hofschneider said any requests made to him as the presiding officer of these impeachment proceedings in the case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres should cite the appropriate provision in the Impeachment Rules that would permit the action requested.

In her request for extension, Muña said that fully complying with all requested changes within the 48 hours mandated by Impeachment Rule 9 is “simply not feasible.”

Last Monday, Senate clerk Dolores S. Bermudes informed Muña that her office had identified numerous deficiencies in the official House Impeachment Record.

The House Impeachment Record was transmitted to the

office of the Senate clerk last March 24. Bermudes said that, pursuant to the Impeachment Rules, Muña has 48 hours, or yesterday, to correct the identified deficiencies.

Muña then wrote to Bermudes requesting an extension of 30 days to correct the deficiencies. Bermudes replied yesterday that she does not have the authority to consider or grant Muña's request, that it should be addressed to Hofschneider in accordance with the Impeachment Rules.

The Senate clerk advised Muña that, at this point, the deadline to correct the deficiencies is still 48 hours from



Hofschneider

the date and time she received the letter, which is 4:54pm Wednesday, April 6.

In her request for extension, Muña said notwithstanding the language in the Impeachment Rules that the Senate clerk “shall promptly notify the House clerk,” the Senate, with the assistance of Legislative Bureau staff, took 11 calendar days, or 264 hours, to produce a list of objections to the record.

By contrast, Muña said, she only has 48 hours to correct these deficiencies, which would entail rearranging thousands of documents from dozens of disparate sources.

“This is an unreasonable

and unfair burden for me to complete within such a short time span. Further, I have concerns about some of the requested changes,” Muña said.

She said it would distort the nature of the record to rearrange documents within the tranches submitted to the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

For example, Muña said, the tranche of over 1,000 pages of documents related to travel authorizations subpoenaed from police officer Joey Cruz is not in chronological order because it was not submitted by Cruz in chronological order.

Muña also cited that some documents were scanned and entered into the record in the order in which they arrived,

and were typically not arranged in any systematic order when provided to the House.

“It was a mammoth task to organize these documents and compile them into a searchable record as we did, and I maintain that the record I transmitted on March 24, 2022, was in substantial compliance with [Impeachment] Rule 9,” she said.

Still, Muña said, she would be willing to undertake the challenge to make a good faith effort to correct the identified issues if given enough time and resources to do so. She said her office will endeavor to correct typographical errors, adjust the consecutive pagination of documents, and arrange documents in chronological order to the extent possible.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CAMACHO

From Page 1

against Camacho.

He explained that in the initial information filed in November 2021, Camacho and his co-defendant, Teipo A. Nikiti, were both charged with disturbing the peace and assault and battery pursuant to a complaint filed by Steve Koch, alleging that Camacho and three

others beat him.

However, Hinds said it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to amend the information to charge Camacho with aggravated assault and battery, strangulation, and disturbing the peace.

Meanwhile, the prosecution also aims to amend the information against Nikiti to charge him with aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

“After careful review of the evidence, additional investigation conducted by the OAG and Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth, now asserts that the information filed on Nov. 10, 2021 must be amended to reflect the actions of the defendants on the night of Oct. 29, 2021,” he said.

Hinds stated that Koch allegedly suffered serious body and psychological injuries

due the actions of the defendants and the information should be amended to reflect those actions.

“Koch, as evidenced by his medical records and examinations, has sustained serious bodily/psychological injury, after the night of Oct. 29. On the night of this incident, Koch was punched multiple times and [Camacho] pinned his knee on Koch's neck, causing him to lose con-

sciousness. The defendant's actions in this case created a high probability of death and other bodily/psychological injuries,” Hinds stated.

The prosecution also informed the court that Koch's injuries could not be determined within the first weeks after the incident.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FBI

From Page 1

of \$148,600 in fraud losses. California is top-ranked, with 12,951 victims and \$427.26 million in fraud losses.

These numbers form part of the 2021 Elder Fraud Report that the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Investigation Division released

yesterday, showing that the number of elderly victims has risen at an alarming rate, while the loss amounts are even more staggering.

FBI CID assistant director Luis M. Quesada stated in the 2021 Elder Fraud Report that 92,371 victims were over the age of 60 years old and reported losses of \$1.7 billion to the FBI's Internet Crime Com-

plaint Center, or IC3.

Quesada said this represents a 74% increase in losses from over 60 years old reported in 2020.

He said through this voluntary submission of information, the IC3 receives and tracks thousands of complaints each day. Quesada said these complaints contain the details of multiple schemes, including romance scams, investment

fraud, government impersonation, and tech support fraud.

As a result of these trends and the FBI's emphasis on protecting seniors, Quesada said the FBI is publishing this 2021 IC3 Elder Fraud Annual Report. He said the FBI, working with the Department of Justice Elder Fraud Initiative and other internal and external partners, is committed to identifying,

investigating, and prosecuting criminals who target seniors.

According to the report, over 60 years old victims experienced 24% of the total loss of all IC3 complaints received in 2021. The average loss per victim was \$18,246.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

the Commonwealth Casino Commission next month to determine the company's fate, Imperial Pacific International issued a clarification announcement on Monday in which it addressed issues giving rise to a disclaimer of opinion on continuing operations contained in its 2020 Annual Results. The company has not yet released its audited results

for 2021, although its preliminary results showed a fiscal year loss of US\$88 million.

Notably, IPI said its controlling shareholder, Inventive Star Limited, wholly-owned by former chairwoman Cui Ji Lie, and other related parties have undertaken to provide additional funding to settle the group's “operational needs, liabilities, potential liabilities related to litigation, the casino annual license fee and the social benefit fund and capital investments as

and when necessary.”

Failure to pay its annual US\$15.5 million license fee and US\$20 million social benefit fund contribution in 2020 were key reasons for the company's license being suspended in April 2021, and repayment is likely the only measure that might save IPI's casino license from being revoked.

The company also said it had received an indicative offer in respect of a credit facility of US\$100 million from an

unnamed independent financial institution, which will be valid until Sept. 27, 2022, and “has been approaching certain major lenders and bond and note holders to renew certain other borrowings and unsecured bonds and notes which were originally due for repayment in 2021, for extension of the repayment tenure to 2024 and/or beyond.”

Dept options aside, IPI revealed two new revenue streams it says are already locked in. The first relates to

an agreement with an independent third-party travel agency to underwrite the occupancy of 250 hotel rooms and 15 villas at Imperial Palace Saipan for a term of four years at an average daily rate of US\$1,060 per hotel room and US\$2,400 per villa. IPI said this will guarantee HK\$600 million (US\$76.5 million) in revenue per year.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

RETIREEES'

From Page 1

cal year 2023 is only a little over \$101 million (specifically \$101,352,567).

Atalig said these estimates do not include business gross revenue tax from Saipan's exclusive casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

He noted that the estimates assume continued suspension of the statutorily earmarked provisions.

Atalig said the estimated general revenue for fiscal year 2023

anticipates continued stagnation in all revenue resources in the post COVID-19 environment as global travel restrictions ease and tourism supply rebuilds at an uncertain pace.

He said the net available resources increased by 2.5% from the fiscal year 2022 budget, Public Law 22-08, due largely to a gradual increase in tourism.

“Our forecasts factor in historical contexts when the CNMI did not have the casino industry and the tourism sector was not at its peak,” he said.

Atalig said Finance will continue to work with federal partners, community stakeholders, and industry leaders to ensure that the CNMI rebound from the pandemic quickly and sustainably.

Atalig said that, as of March 22, 2022, Finance is in the process of assessing the post COVID-19 economic impact. Although the CNMI will benefit from federal assistance and tourism resumption, he said Finance reserves the opportunity to provide an update as additional informa-

tion is received.

Atalig said one outcome on a proposed solution from the Fiscal Response Summit in April 2020 was additional revenue-generating measures.

He said it was proposed that, by implementing new rates and taxes, gross government resources can increase by an estimated \$6.3 million.

The Fiscal Summit Proposal for a “sin” tax for sugar beverages, alcohol, etc., has an estimated effect of \$3.39 million, and a 1% increase to cigarettes (tobacco) products has an esti-

mated effect of \$2.92 million, bringing to a total of \$6.32 million in estimated effects.

Atalig added that Finance supports legislative action on updating the Hotel Occupancy Tax for the 21st century by adopting a Transient Accommodation Tax. “This would help narrow the technological gap and provide modern support for tourism in the CNMI,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MAN

From Page 2

After Seman was done hitting her for about 45 minutes, she said he instructed her to get on her knees and to eat the noodles off the floor.

Then on Saturday, March 19, the victim said she asked Seman's sister to drop her off at the Commonwealth Health Center because she was vomiting blood. There, it was learned that the victim had fractured bones on her left and right cheeks and on the top right portion of her eyebrows.

The victim stated that she told Seman's father about what she had learned from the doctors and told him that she didn't want to go back to their residence.

However, Seman's father allegedly told her that Seman wouldn't be at their residence so she returned home. But when she got there, Seman was there, she said.

HANMI

From Page 3

Fiesta Resort & Spa (now being transformed into the Crowne Plaza), Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The occupancy rates do not include venue rentals at Kanoa Resort Saipan for government COVID-19 quarantine accommodations.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. (PR)



Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store

WHERE CUSTOMERS ALWAYS COME FIRST!

Holy Week Specials



WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

APRIL 7 - 13

SHOP NOW!



WOODEN ROUND TABLE
SALE PRICE
\$19⁹⁵



BETTER CHEF 18-PIECE GLASSWARE SET
SALE PRICE
\$15⁹⁵

MEMORY FOAM PILLOW
SALE PRICE
\$9⁹⁵



DAHDOUL CURTAIN ROD SMALL
SALE PRICE
\$7⁹⁵

POPCORN SHRIMP 12 OZ



SALE PRICE
\$4⁵⁹

SHRIMP PEELED TAIL ON 16/20" 2 LB



SALE PRICE
\$19⁴⁹

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® NEW YORK STEAK



SALE PRICE
\$15⁷⁹ /LB

DRAPER VALLEY CHICKEN DRUMSTICK



SALE PRICE
\$3²⁹ /LB

IMPRESS 18" CHROME HIGH VELOCITY FAN
SALE PRICE
\$54⁹⁵



12" PORTABLE BLUETOOTH DJ SPEAKER
SALE PRICE
\$98⁹⁵



ALPO COME & GET IT DOG FOOD
SALE PRICE
\$44⁹⁵

CHILI SWEET MINI PEPPER BAGS 16 OZ



SALE PRICE
\$3⁸⁹ /PACK

RED ONION



SALE PRICE
\$1⁹⁹ /LB

RED POTATO



SALE PRICE
\$1³⁹ /LB

HAWAIIAN PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 5 OZ YOUR CHOICE



SALE PRICE
\$1⁹⁹ EACH

COFFEE-MATE LIQUID ORIGINAL CREAMER 32OZ YOUR CHOICE



SALE PRICE
\$6⁷⁹

QUESO DEL COTIJA 8OZ



SALE PRICE
\$4⁸⁹



THROW PILLOW
SALE PRICE
\$6⁹⁵



RICE DISPENSER
SALE PRICE
\$14⁹⁵



TOP CHEST FREEZER 5 CUFT
SALE PRICE
\$289⁹⁵



RIDE ON ATV MOTOR BIKE
SALE PRICE
\$179⁹⁵



DOUBLE POINTS OF THE WEEK!

LOOK FOR DOUBLE BONUS POINT TAGS, CHECK YOUR RECEIPT FOR YOUR TOTAL POINTS!

Redeem points for ANY ITEM in STORE!

NOT YET A MEMBER? SIGN UP! IT'S FREE



BRENTWOOD JUMBO 24 CUP HOT AIR POPCORN MAKER



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$29⁹⁵

ORCA BAY FLOUNDER FILLET 10 OZ



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$5⁵⁹

AMERICAN STOCKYARD CHICAGO STYLE HOT DOG RELISH 12 OZ YOUR CHOICE



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$4⁸⁹

COMFREY FARM PORK BELLY SLICED



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$4¹⁹ /LB

ASPARAGUS



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$4⁹⁹ /PACK

GRAPES GREEN SEEDLESS



GET 2X BONUS POINTS
SALE PRICE
\$3⁴⁹ /LB

@paylesssuperfreshtruckloadstore

@paylesssuperfresh

(670) 234-1444

April is designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month during a proclamation signing last Thursday, March 31, before a near-capacity crowd at the Kensington Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan. The theme for this year is “Believe, Engage, and Empower.”

The CNMI has been recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month since 2008 but this year’s observance is unique in that one of the inspirational speakers was a male survivor of sexual assault.

“We had the incredible honor of having two survivors of sexual assault speaking out, and encouraging and supporting other survivors. This year was the first time we’ve ever had a male survivor of sexual assault join us at a proclamation signing ceremony,” said Maise B. Tenorio, executive director and founding member of the Northern Marianas Co-



LEIGH GASES

Group photo shows participants, guest speakers, organizations, and friends and family that gathered at the Kensington Hall stage of the Kensington Hotel Saipan after the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony.

alition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The event was held in-person inside the Kensington Hall but was also live-streamed online.

Two of the inspirational

speakers recalled for the crowd the experiences that they went through as children. In some moments of recollection for both individuals, they were seen talking through gritted

teeth and with tears streaming down their faces as they talked to the crowd of the trauma they both went through.

Tenorio said “we are living in a culture of silence and

shame and stigma. And many survivors live their lives without ever seeking help or seeking justice and seeking healing. So to have two survivors today is an incredible moment

for the movement.”

Tenorio hopes “that survivors who are watching or listening in know and feel the heart and passion that we have, and that they know that they’re not alone, we believe them, and we are here to support them. If ever they are ready to seek help or assistance, there’s so many people in the movement and in the community for them.”

Other inspirational guest speakers were Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds and law enforcement officer Fred Sato.

In her closing remarks, NMCADSV associate director Kiki Igitol Benjamin hopes that “your time with us in this space has empowered you to start by believing and to lift up victims and survivors to find the safety, healing and justice that they deserve. And that you all remain steadfast to show up and rally for victims and survivors.”

The coalition invites the public to take part in the SAAM events and activities scheduled throughout April, including Wave, Walk & Roll to End Sexual Violence on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral field area. Registration starts at 4:30pm with the waving, and walk and roll following shortly. SAAM T-shirts will be given out to participants while supplies last.

NMCADSV will also be hosting a SAAM Spirit Week Social Media Challenge from Monday, April 25 to Friday, April 29, 2022. This challenge invites individuals and groups like organizations and school clubs to post on social media to raise awareness based on daily prompts provided by NMCADSV. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and group with the most engagement.

Saipan Tribune



No matter which advertising platform you choose, we can help you deliver your ad message to your target audience.

For more advertising opportunities, call 670-235-NEWS (6397)

59 avail of free haircuts, courtesy of Bayani Association

A total of 59 individuals availed of free haircuts last Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the Garapan Central Park Round House.

The initiative, organized by the Bayani Association and the LGBTQ+ Hairdressers and Barbers of Saipan, also administered free blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. They were also given a free hand sanitizers, courtesy of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

"It was an overwhelming outcome event for the Bayani Association after the big success of the Queen of Drag 2022 pageant," said association president Anna-mae Adaza.

She said many of those who availed of the free services are thankful to the Bayani Association for organiz-

ing this special project. "It was nice seeing a family of five availing of the free haircuts. At least they can save some money and the boys were happy with their haircuts," she said.

Adaza also thanked Sunny Side Café, project coordinator Ernie Molina and the officers and members of the organization. "We are so grateful for the unwavering support of Saipan's Hairdressers and Barbers: Patrick and Nestea of Jigz Barbershop & Beauty Salon, Cecile of Genoveva's Hair Power, Aileen of BeYou Tiful Beauty Salon, Shine of Gene's Barbershop, Rica and Pia of Mary's Salon, Joanne of Creative Salon, Edwin of SaLyn's Beauty Salon, Evelyn, Irma, and Eydie Uy of Makeover Salon."

She said the organization will do another special project in the future. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and officers of the Bayani Association, led by association president Anna-mae Adaza, seated center, pose with members of the LGBTQ+ Hairdressers and Barbers of Saipan and project coordinator Ernie Molina, second from right, after the free haircut event last Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the Garapan Central Park Round House.

Calling all college students throughout Micronesia



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A student researcher with a National Science Foundation student research program at the University of Guam examines organisms in a tank on June 12, 2019, at the UOG Marine Laboratory in Mangilao, Guam.

Undergraduate students from colleges across Micronesia are encouraged to apply for an opportunity this summer to contribute scientific data from their islands to a University of Guam-based research program.

In the Micronesia Summer Bridge to Bachelor's Program, participants will collect marine and coastal data within their respective areas from April to June. Their data will then be analyzed, either virtually or in person, in June in conjunction with members of their team in Guam.

Samples collected in last year's program resulted in student researchers discovering and naming several previously undocumented types of algae.

Applicants must be interested in STEM research and enrolled at Northern Marianas College, Palau Community College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, or the College of the Marshall Islands.

Applicants in the Northern Marianas and Palau must be able to travel to Guam in June, while applicants in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands

must be able to meet virtually, due to flight restrictions, on a regular basis during the month of June.

PCC student Kebang Ngraklang participated in the program in 2021 and is hopeful for a future in science.

"The Bridge to Bachelor's research program has motivated me to keep continuing to pursue my career as a scientist," Ngraklang said. "I think this program is a great opportunity to thrive and motivate students like me to pursue a career as a scientist."

» Contribute regional scientific data this summer to

Participants will receive a \$3,000 stipend; comprehensive research training; faculty and near-peer mentorship; and travel, lodging, and food accommodations for those traveling to Guam.

Applications are due by Sunday, April 24, and can be completed at <https://tinyurl.com/MB-2Bapplication>.

The Bridge to Bachelor's Program is overseen by the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and UOG Sea Grant in partnership with the UOG School of Education. It is funded by a grant from the

National Science Foundation through UOG's Inclusion Across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science

Supporting Emerging Aquatic Scientists Islands Alliance Guam Hub.

For more information, email NSFINCLUDES@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Earhart, LLC
Suite 208, DHL Building, Middle Road
P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Accountant

Job Duties:

Prepare, review, and analyze financial statements or other accounting records for accuracy, completeness, consistency and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and other standard accounting procedures. Maintain an accurate and complete recording of receipts, disbursements, income, and expenses utilizing the company's accounting software. Calculate taxes owed. Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual tax returns, including but not limited to, monthly business gross receipts tax, estimated tax, employer's quarterly withholding tax, 941-SS employer's quarterly federal tax, W-2 wage and tax statement, W-3SS transmittal of wage and tax statements, annual reconciliation of withholding taxes withheld, corporate income tax, ensuring adherence to requirements for payment, filing, and reporting with the federal and local tax government agencies. Prepare checklist for new clients and review accounting engagement tasks. Review billable and non-billable expenses including adjustments to ensure the coding of billing and expenses are accurate within established practices. Prepare and analyze client's billing and respond to inquiries regarding billing issues and problems. Review check requisitions ensuring validity of transactions, proper authorization and supporting documentation and general ledger coding consistent with company's prescribed policies and procedures for financial operations. Review and calculate employees time record. Maintain and administer payroll data. Provide analytical review of income and operating expenditures by performing periodic reconciliation of accounts. Prepare ad hoc reports and analysis as requested by the management. Perform other duties as required and assigned.

Location of Employment: Saipan

Applicants for this position must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with 60 months work experience as an Accountant. Interested applicants should send their application and resume to the employer (by mail: P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950; by email: Where_Is_Amelia@hotmail.com).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from 500 Sails to construct a Cultural Maritime Training Center in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and / or EO 11990.

The project involves renovation and new construction of the former Division of Procurement warehouse and does not expand the existing footprint of the warehouse. The project is located in Lower Base, Saipan, specifically, Lot No. 252 E 01, adjacent to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources building. Project information is available for review at the 500 Sails office at the project location or by contacting Tel. No. (670) 323-7245.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to:

Rowena Defato
Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
rdefato@eda.gov
(206) 220-7703

Comments received in the EDA Regional Environmental Office by 5:00 p.m., Pacific time on May 09, 2022 will be considered. A copy of NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

2nd AMENDED MINIMUM BID

VEHICLE FOR AUCTION

2016 MAZDA 6, 4 DOOR SEDAN - DARK BLUE COLOR



For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties - 2nd Amended Minimum bid is **\$8,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m.

Please call to schedule an inspection.
The vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 69

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hold Putin to account for war crimes

Justifying his call to try Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes, President Joe Biden said on Monday that “what’s happening in Bucha is outrageous and everyone sees it.”

Nearly everyone in uncensored societies worldwide indeed has, as graphic images of Russian troops’ brutality against the residents of Bucha, Ukraine, became evident.

With its morgue overflowing, a mass grave had to be dug for slaughtered civilians. Ukrainian military vehicles had to weave around corpses in the road—some with their hands tied behind their backs before they were executed.

Overall, Ukrainian officials said they had found the bodies of 410 civilians in cities around Kyiv, the capital, and The Associated Press reported seeing 21 bodies, including nine in civilian clothes who were shot at close range. In one city, Motyzhyn, the bodies of the mayor, her son and her husband were found bound, blindfolded and thrown into a pit.

Human Rights Watch sees it too. In a report issued Sunday it said that it had “documented several cases of Russian military forces committing laws-of-war violations against civilians in occupied areas of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Kyiv regions of Ukraine.”

In an unflinching account, the human rights group detailed evidence of a “case of repeated rape; two cases of summary execution, one of six men, the other of one man; and other cases of unlawful violence and threats against civilians between Feb. 27 and March 14, 2022. Soldiers were implicated in looting civilian property, including food, clothing, and firewood.”

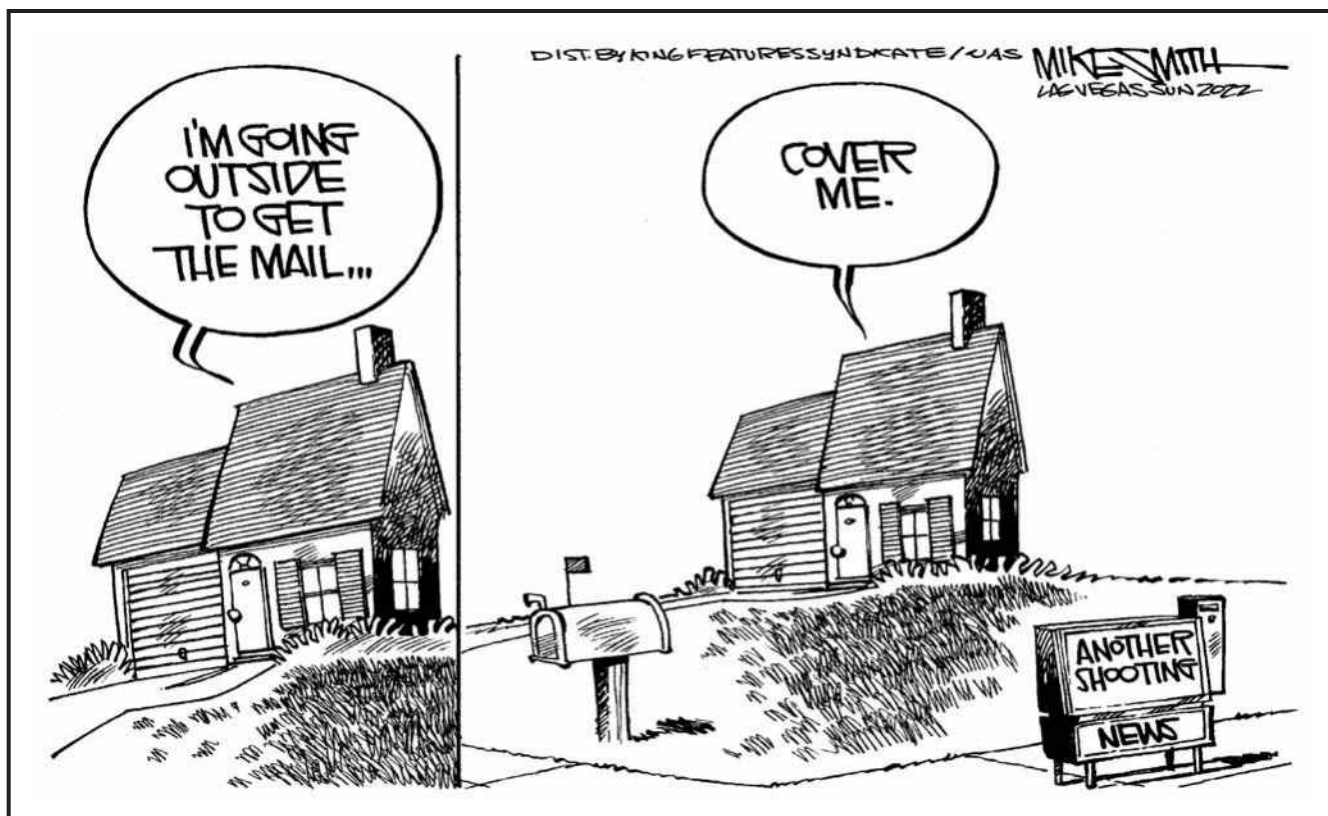
The HRW investigation came before the revelations in Bucha, suggesting that the scope and scale of atrocities is far greater than HRW’s geographically limited investigation. But even based on these cases, Hugh Williamson, HRW’s Europe and Central Asia director, said in a statement that “the cases we documented amount to unspeakable, deliberate cruelty and violence against Ukrainian civilians. Rape, murder, and other violent acts against people in the Russian forces’ custody should be investigated as war crimes.”

Probes are already underway. One is from the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and the second, independent investigation was established after the passage of a United Nations Human Rights Council resolution. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen tweeted on Monday that the European Union will soon send investigators to Ukraine to help document war crimes.

The call from Biden is “definitely justified,” Alejandro Baer, director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, told an editorial writer. Speaking from Spain, Baer added that “there is evidence of war crimes being committed across Ukraine.”

Ukrainians “are being destroyed and exterminated, and this is happening in the Europe of the 21st century,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday’s “Face the Nation.” In fact, Russia’s savagery goes beyond war crimes, Zelenskyy said: It is “genocide,” a term also used by some European leaders, including the prime ministers of Poland and Spain. Regarding that specific charge, Baer said that “from a strictly legal and

See PUTIN on Next Page



At the UN, Wendy Sherman slams Russia and Putin for creating war and food crisis

The Russian ambassador had heard enough about global food shortages caused by his nation’s invasion of Ukraine so, when it was his turn to speak, Vasily Nebenzya offered a classic Kremlesque retort: He blamed the West.

If not for the West’s “unbridled sanctions hysteria” against Russia, Nebenzya told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, there would be no threat of starvation among Ukrainians; food would still flow from Ukraine, the “breadbasket of Europe,” to countries that need it. The United States and other Western nations can prevent food shortages, Nebenzya said, “no matter how much they try to shift blame” to Russia.

And, he added—because it’s in the Russian script—if “Ukrainian Nazis and radicals” would just lay down their arms, there would be no crisis.

It was all maddening and absurd: Moscow’s U.N. ambassador blaming the victims of Russia’s bombardments for their predicament and, further, blaming the international sanctions imposed on Russia for disruptions in the production and export of Ukrainian and Russian wheat, corn, sunflower oil and other staples.

Just stop the sanctions, Nebenzya said, and there will be no famine.

Sitting nearby, and having spoken moments earlier about the looming crisis, was Wendy Sherman, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Baltimore native and alum of Pikesville High School and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Sherman, now a seasoned diplomat representing the U.S. at a session of the Security Council, had sounded warnings about the possibility of famine due to Russia’s “unjustified and brutal invasion of Ukraine.” Nearly a quarter of Ukraine’s population has been displaced, she said, and nearly 4 million Ukrainians have fled the country. The only one to blame for that, she said, was the Russian president, Vladimir Putin.

“Russia’s ceaseless bombardment of Ukraine cities and critical infrastructure has created one of the fastest growing humanitarian crises in recent decades,” Sherman had told the council.

Now, having listened to the Russian ambassador’s response, she had more to say.

“First,” she said, “I want to be clear that the conflict that is being suffered by the Ukrainian people is not about the Russian Federation versus the West. One hundred and forty countries, just last week, spoke in support of ending this conflict and the need to end this humanitarian crisis.

“So, with all due respect, Mr. Ambassador, this is not about Russia versus the West. This is about the support of the U.N. Charter and the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right of all countries—all countries—to choose their political orientation and their foreign policy.

“I myself was engaged directly with Russian counterparts to find a peaceful way forward to meet the concerns of the Russian Federation,” Sherman added. “President Putin chose an invasion, not diplomacy.”

By DAN RODRICKS

The Baltimore Sun

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for The Baltimore Sun.



Sherman has been deputy to Secretary of State Antony Blinken since last April, but her experiences in the State Department go back to the Clinton administration, the years after the breakup of the Soviet Union and during wars in the former Yugoslavia.

She served Secretaries Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright and, during the Obama administration, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton. Sherman was lead negotiator for the Iran nuclear deal.

Marylanders remember her as the savvy chief of staff for then-Rep. Barbara Mikulski and the manager of Mikulski’s first successful campaign for the Senate in the 1980s. Among a variety of positions she held over the years, Sherman served as Maryland’s special secretary for children and youth.

Now, on the world stage, Sherman used her moment at the U.N. to challenge Russia, and she did so in the perfect pitch of a diplomat armed with facts and moral clarity.

“With all due respect, Mr. Ambassador,” she said, “as a Jewish American, I cannot help but say this is not about Nazis in Ukraine. Last week, former U.S. Secretary of State and former Permanent Representative to this Council—and one of my most cherished personal friends—Madeleine Albright, died. She loved representing the United States here. She would have been outraged by the words of the Russian Federation today.

“Later in her life, she learned that her parents raised her as Catholic to protect her from the Nazis because her family was Jewish. She learned that three of her grandparents died at the hands of the Nazis while in concentration camps. She knew that the Jewish president of Ukraine [Volodymyr Zelenskyy] was certainly not a Nazi, and that the citizens of Ukraine being slaughtered and starving, and without food and medicine ... are not and never were Nazis.”

Sherman never raised her voice to express anger, something experienced diplomats manage to do in the face of obvious lies and infuriating claims. T

“Finally,” Sherman said, bringing the hearing back to its purpose, “this dialogue today is about the humanitarian needs of Ukrainian civilians and people around the world...”

“We must all do whatever we can to stop war. But there is an easy choice here. And it is a choice that can be made today by President Putin, and that is to stop the war. So let us all, over 140 countries around the world, continue to stand with Ukraine.”

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What If Fox News viewers watched CNN instead?

The establishment of Fox News in the late 1990s forever changed both media and politics in America, transforming the formerly staid world of television news into the series of political shoutfests we know and love-hate today. More than a quarter-century after its founding, however, the question persists: Does watching Fox News actually change voters' minds?

It's worth noting that, in a famous study published 15 years ago, economists showed that exposure to Fox could have a measurable impact on elections. Comparing markets that had received Fox to those where it was not yet available, the study concluded that the presence of Fox News was good for a Republican gain of 0.4 to 0.7 percentage points between the 1996 and 2000 elections. It was a decidedly modest effect—but large enough to sway that super-close election.

It's a slightly different question how watching Fox affects someone's views of the day-to-day controversies of politics. One view is that Fox is such an echo chamber that it can't possibly be changing minds. Only committed conservatives, the theory goes, would bother to tune in to Sean Hannity or Tucker Carlson, so what difference could it make what they say?

A pretty big difference, as it turns out, according to a new study by political scientists David Brookman of the University of California at Berkeley and Joshua Kalla of Yale. The research offers a much more granular look at the impact of Fox on its viewers, thanks to reliance on a resource-intensive experiment, rather than the broad aggregates of that earlier paper.

Brookman and Kalla recruited a sample of regular Fox News viewers and paid a subset of them to watch CNN instead. (Compliance was enforced with some news quizzes, for which additional compensation was offered.) Then the treatment group of switchers and the control group of non-switchers took three waves of surveys about the news.

The results: Not only did CNN and Fox cover different things during the September 2020 survey period, but the audience of

committed Fox viewers, which started the month with conservative predispositions, changed their minds on many issues.

Switchers were five percentage points more likely to believe that people suffer from long COVID, for example, and six points more likely to believe that many foreign countries did a better job than the U.S. of controlling the virus. They were seven points more likely to support voting by mail. And they were 10 points less likely to believe that supporters of then-candidate Joe Biden were happy when police officers get shot, 11 points less likely to say it's more important for the president to focus on containing violent protesters than on the coronavirus, and 13 points less likely to agree that if Biden were elected, "we'll see many more police get shot by Black Lives Matter activists."

These are meaningful differences, even if the group that switched to CNN remained very right-wing in their view of the American political landscape. While far fewer of them believed that Biden supporters were happy about police shootings, for example, the overall share who did believe was still 46%. And only 24% of the CNN switchers said they supported voting by mail.

Still, these are reasonably large changes from a one-month experiment. And they occurred despite the long-term effort of then-President Donald Trump to discredit CNN and other mainstream media outlets.

What's more, only so much news occurs at any given time. One story that broke while the experiment was ongoing was Bob Woodward's revelation that Trump was aware early that the new virus was "deadly"—specifically, that it was much worse than the flu, contradicting the president's later public efforts to downplay the virus. Those in the treatment group were more likely to know about this, as well as the fact that Trump did not meet with the family of Jacob Blake, the victim of a police shooting in Wisconsin the month before.

Over a longer span of time, presumably, more stories ignored by Fox News would have piled up. And indeed one of the things that switchers changed their minds about was Fox News itself: They became more skeptical that Fox would cover a story that

By **MATTHEW YGLESIAS**
Bloomberg Opinion

Matthew Yglesias is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion and writes the Slow Boring blog and newsletter. A co-founder and former columnist for Vox, he is also the author, most recently, of One Billion Americans.



reflected poorly on Trump, even if it were true.

This mode of political influence, where partisan media can simply ignore stories that are inconvenient, is a potentially powerful challenge to democratic accountability. It's also probably not symmetrical. Even media outlets that skew liberal in their coverage generally don't shy away from covering the COVID death toll or the rise in inflation.

Of course, Democrats can't improve their standing with the public by paying Fox viewers to switch channels. But one lesson they can take from this experiment is that nobody is impossible to reach.

Republicans have relentlessly criticized the mainstream media for decades, but they also gleefully participate in it. Republican members of Congress routinely accept invitations to appear on the network Sunday-morning talk shows. Former Trump Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney has signed on as a CBS News contributor.

The left, by contrast, tends to stigmatize any engagement with right-wing media, as if fearing contamination through association. If it were true that this media is consumed exclusively by people who are totally impervious to dissonant information, boycotting the RWM might be a defensible strategy. But Brookman and Kalla's research indicates that information flows at the margin really do matter. Any opportunity to present new facts to people, and new arguments, is valuable.

April is National Poetry Month

You may have heard people say all the good poets are dead. There was even a movie made a few years ago called *Dead Poet's Society* starring Robin Williams portraying an English teacher teaching poetry to his students.

According to some studies less than 50% of the American public will ever read any poetry after finishing high school or college and less than 15% will ever buy a poetry book. Kudos to *Saipan Tribune* editor Jayvee Vallejera for publishing my poems and some of my student's poems from Tinian and Saipan over the past 25 years or so. The students wrote haiku and senryu about their mothers and holidays.

I'd like to start this month's Literary Nook with three living Irish American poet laureates: Billy Collins, born 1941, an East Coast English teacher, U.S. poet laureate from 2001 to 2003; Kay Ryan, born 1945, a West Coast English teacher, U.S. poet laureate from 2008 to 2010; and last, and certainly least, myself, Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly, born 1949, a CNMI English teacher appointed Tinian poet laureate in 2018 by then Mayor of Tinian and a former CNMI attorney general Joey Patrick San Nicolas. At 72 I'm experiencing the onset of senile dementia so what better place to return to than my ongoing series of sonnets called T.O.A.S.T.—Telling Old Age Senescent Tales.

*"So many of us streaming along—
all of humanity, really—
moving in perfect sync,
yet each lost in the room of a perfect dream."
—excerpt from Billy Collins' poem, *The Parade*.*

D.D.T.—Dreading Dementia Thoughts

(A poisonous plague for senescent seniors)

Imagine river* rapids
that always flow both ways
into an ocean of thought
dementia slowly dams them
dementia slowly damns them
the thoughts get caught
Imagine electricity
in neural activity
connecting and lighting up ideas
swimming through it
fraught with neural onslaught
slowly encrusting a sea
of synaptic senescent tides
Short-term memory loss
slows the rapid flows
senile dementia settling in.

**The river referred to here is the corpus callosum, which is often called "the river that flows both ways." It is a mass of transverse fibers connecting our brain's cerebral hemispheres.*

Sarcastic Symptoms of Senescence

Plenty aches and pains when growing old

earned European unity on Russia.

Tragically, too often the world does avert its gaze at atrocities, and there will be no shortage of attempts at disinformation. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, for instance, called the searing images from Bucha "stage-managed anti-Russian provocation"—a claim proven false by satellite photos. These lies are likely to be echoed by Beijing, underscoring China's complicity in Russia's illegal and immoral war. Other countries with authoritative governments are also likely to either repeat Russia's obscene account or censor the truth.

Those living in countries with a free and unfettered press—the kind of society Ukrainians are fighting and dying for—should not buy into this lie or the larger false narrative coming from the Krem-

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



bothered by this thing, bothered by that
bothered by heat and bothered by cold
wrinkled skin, crepe skin, many rolls of fat

wear and tear of more than sixty long years
fading night vision that new glasses won't help
stomach rotundity from way too many beers
eating inedible greens, curly kale, sea kelp

no six to eight hours sleep like when in your prime
you forget the names of people you have just met
walking up and down stairs gives you a hard time
frequent urination leaves underpants a little bit wet

head hair going, lots of new hair in ears and nose
growing heavy with fat you can't fit into your clothes.

PUTIN

From Page 8

scholarly perspective, one has to look carefully whether the term applies to what's happening on the ground."

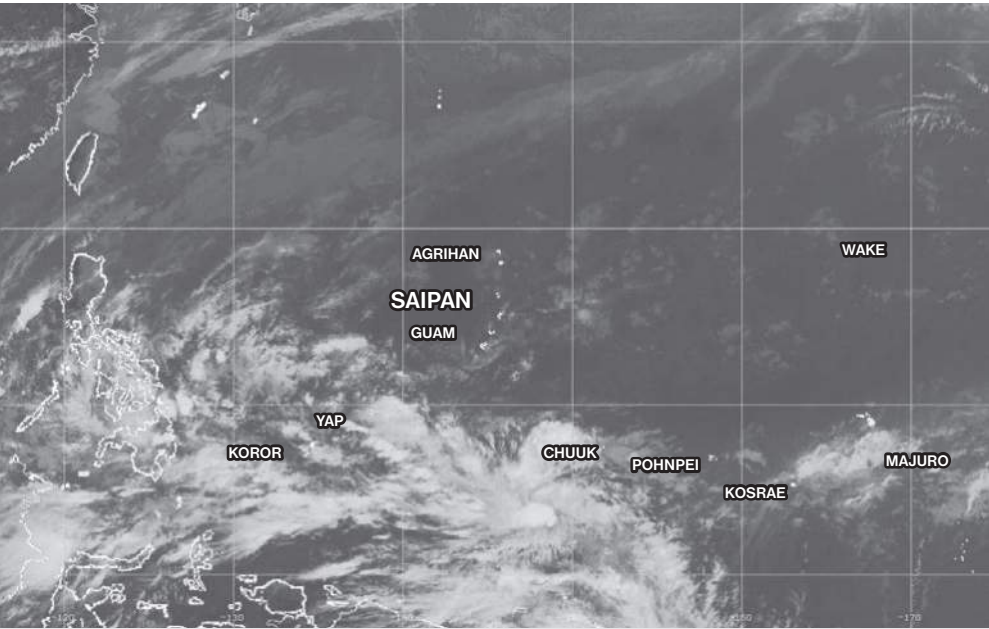
The West has acted with unusual alacrity in arming Ukraine and imposing sanctions. But both efforts can and must go deeper. Ukraine must be given every opportunity to protect its people against more war crimes, and even stricter economic penalties must immediately be inflicted. Most notably, every effort must be made to end, or hastily wean, European energy imports fueling Russia's war machine, a sacrifice that is straining the hard-

lin. In particular, a vocal cadre of American conservatives has consistently decried the generally bipartisan consensus on Russia and Ukraine. Dissent is essential for a vibrant democracy, and that is their right. But they and others must also see Putin's inhumanity. Denying it revictimizes those subject to such viciousness.

"If those that are witnessing and surviving the crimes themselves are exposed to this denialist propaganda, this is possibly the worst that can happen to them," said Baer. "Because the acknowledgment at this point means at least that there is an expectation or hope for justice in the future."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. breezy friday		Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Breezy. Cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	78°	86°	77°	86°	77°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Breezy trade winds and dry weather persist. Buoys show seas of 7 to 9 feet with most energy from trade-wind westward waves. A broadmonsoon-like trough is still anchored far to the south with JTWC Invest 95W anchored to the eastern extent near 4N149E (SW of Chuuk).

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	30 / 25 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	27 / 24 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	28/ 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:51 AM	18:35 PM
Friday	05:51 AM	18:36 PM
Saturday	05:50 AM	18:36 PM
Sunday	05:50 AM	18:36 PM
Monday	05:49 AM	18:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:12	23:40 PM	-
Friday	11:01	-	-
Saturday	1-	11:52 PM	18:37 PM
Sunday	-	12:45 PM	19:27 PM
Monday	-	13:38 PM	20:16 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	21 / 13 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	25 / 9 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	24 / 20 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy/Wind	28 / 22 °F	
London	AM Showers/Wind	12 / 4 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	35 / 17 °F	
Manila	Cloudy	33 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	23 / 13 °F	
Miami	Showers	30 / 22 °F	
New York	Rain	10 / 9 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	21 / 10 °F	
Paris	Light Rain/Wind	14 / 7 °F	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	19 / 9 °F	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	18 / 10 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	18 / 10 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	27 / 9 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	16 / 4 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	17 / 10 °F	
Washington, DC	Rain	13 / 8 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:28 AM	High Tide	1.60	
05:45 AM	Low Tide	1.20	
10:19 AM	High Tide	1.56	
5:58 PM	Low Tide	0.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
				7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily

1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

BoG's Ifit Scholarship applications now available

HĀGATNA, Guam—In its continuing commemoration of its 50th anniversary, Bank of Guam has announced they will begin accepting applications for their 2022 Ifit Scholarship.

Now in its 11th year, the Ifit Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Belau, and San Francisco, California. Five recipients will be awarded

» **Graduating high school seniors eligible**

\$2,000 each to be used toward any four-year accredited college or university.

Applications can be found on Bank of Guam's website, bankofguam.com, or can be requested by emailing communications@bankofguam.com. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2022, and recipients will

be announced later that month.

On March 13, Bank of Guam celebrated its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the historic date, the bank unveiled its commem-

orative emblem in a lighting ceremony, illuminating its Hagåtña headquarters in its signature green and gold. Their yearlong golden

celebration continued on March 19, with the 2nd annual Founder's Day of Giving, honoring the bank's late founder, Jesus S. Leon Guer-

rero, by uniting employees throughout their network in a day of giving back to the communities they serve.

For additional information

regarding Bank of Guam's Ifit Scholarship, contact: Corporate Social Responsibility Department at communications@bankofguam.com. (PR)

EPA rule would finally ban asbestos, carcinogen still in use

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday proposed a rule to finally ban asbestos, a carcinogen that is still used in some chlorine bleach, brake pads and other products and kills thousands of Americans every year.

The proposal marks a major expansion of EPA regulation under a landmark 2016 law that overhauled rules governing tens of thousands of toxic chemicals in everyday products, from household cleaners to clothing and furniture.

The proposed rule would ban chrysotile asbestos, the only ongoing use of asbestos in the United States. The substance is found in products such as brake linings and gaskets, and is used to manufacture chlorine bleach and sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan called the rule an important step to protect public health and "finally put an end to the use of dangerous asbestos in the United States."

The proposed ban "demonstrates significant progress in our work to implement the (2016) law and take bold, long-overdue actions to pro-



Asbestos Removal Technologies Inc., job superintendent Ryan Laitila, right, sprays amended water as job forman Megan Eberhart holds a light during asbestos abatement in Howell, Mich., Oct. 18, 2017. AP

tect those most vulnerable among us," Regan said.

The 2016 law authorized new rules for tens of thousands of toxic chemicals found in everyday products, including substances such as asbestos and trichloroethylene that for decades have been known to cause cancer yet were largely unregulated under federal law. Known as the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, the law was intended

to clear up a hodgepodge of state rules governing chemicals and update the Toxic Substances Control Act, a 1976 law that had remained unchanged for 40 years.

The EPA moved to ban asbestos in 1989, but the rule was largely overturned by a 1991 court decision that weakened EPA's authority under TSCA to address risks to human health from asbestos or other existing chemicals. The

2016 law required the EPA to evaluate chemicals and put in place protections against unreasonable risks.

At the signing ceremony for the new law, then-President Barack Obama said the U.S. chemical system under TSCA was "so complex, so burdensome that our country hasn't even been able to uphold a ban on asbestos. I think a lot of Americans would be shocked by all that."

More info on resumption of SSA in-person services

All local Social Security Administration offices will restore in-person services, including for people without an appointment, on April 7, 2022,

but there are still rules that must be complied with.

The public is advised to review the SSA's Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) | SSA page and safety protocols before visiting the SSA office.

"As we expand in-person service, we expect our offices to be very busy. We strongly encourage you to continue to go online, call us for help, and schedule appointments in advance," stated a previous SSA news release.

Everyone must complete a self-assessment checklist before allowed entry. Everyone permitted to enter an office must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. Learn what else to know before you go to an office. (PR)

Joeten Superstore supports Red Cross

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter recently conducted an outreach at Joeten Superstore during two Friday events.

At the outreach, volunteers talked with customers about disaster preparedness and provided informational materials. Joeten Superstore provided free tarps as giveaways to encourage residents to be ready for the upcoming typhoon season.

"The Red Cross is grateful to Joeten Superstore for all their support. They played a major role in assisting the Red Cross during our Typhoon Yutu response and continues to work closely with us to ensure that families are prepared" said J.D. Tenorio, disaster program manager for the NMI Chapter.

For more information about the Red Cross and how to volunteer, call 234-3459.

About

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org/NMI or call 234-3459. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Twitter says it's testing an 'edit' button

Twitter tweeted Tuesday that it is indeed working on a way for users to edit their 280-character messages, although it says the project has nothing to do with the fact that edit-function fan Elon Musk was just revealed as the company's largest shareholder and now sits on its board. Twitter said it will test the feature in its paid service, Twitter Blue, in the coming months. It said the test would help it "learn what works, what doesn't, and what's possible." So it may be a while before most Twitter users get to use it, if they ever do. Twitter spokesperson Catherine Hill declined to say whether an edit feature might be rolled out for all users. Many Twitter users—among them, Kim Kardashian, Ice T, Katy Perry and McDonald's corporate account—have long begged for an edit button. The company itself recently teased users with an April Fool's Day tweet saying "we are working

on an edit button." The official Twitter account said Tuesday that the April 1 tweet wasn't a joke and that it has been working on it since last year. (AP)

CEO of rental giant Hertz vows to fix false theft reports

NEW YORK (AP)—The new CEO of Hertz says he's working to fix a glitch in the rental-car giant's systems that has led to some of its customers being wrongly accused of stealing cars they had rented. Stephen Scherr, who took over as CEO on Feb. 28, said the company has changed its practices to fix problems that have occurred when cars were reported stolen but the transaction was improperly recorded in Hertz's system. "This is among the first things that I have started to look to take care of and deal with in the first 30 days I've been at the company," Scherr told CNBC on Monday. "It is not acceptable to Hertz to have any customer ... caught up in some of

what has happened." Some Hertz customers have said they were arrested and jailed because the company accused them of stealing cars that they had paid to rent and in some cases had returned long before their arrest. It's not clear how many people are affected. More than 200 customers asked a federal judge in Delaware to Hertz to disclose records about erroneous theft reports, and the judge ruled in the renters' favor in February.

Treasury bars Russia payments in dollars from US accounts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department is moving to keep the Russian government from making debt payments at U.S. banks with U.S. dollars, restricting one of the strategies President Vladimir Putin is using to stave off default, an agency official said Tuesday. Russia faces several April deadlines to make debt payments. The Kremlin must now choose between draining

its remaining valuable dollar reserves, using new revenue coming in or default, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak on the record. The Treasury decision comes after the agency previously said sanctions levied on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine still permit Russia to continue to make debt payments. The debt is owed to foreign investors, among others, and comes from government investments to presumably spur economic growth in Russia. Russia is currently facing skyrocketing inflation, shortages in essential goods and disrupted trade with the rest of the world as it continues its invasion of Ukraine.

JetBlue makes offer for Spirit Airlines, could spark bid war

JetBlue Airways has offered to buy Spirit Airlines for about \$3.6 billion and break up a plan for Spirit to merge with rival budget carrier Frontier

Airlines. Spirit said Tuesday that it received an unsolicited bid from JetBlue. It said its board will evaluate the offer and decide what's best for shareholders. In a statement, New York-based JetBlue said combining with Spirit would lead to lower fares by creating "the most compelling national low-fare challenger" to the nation's four biggest airlines: American, Delta, United and Southwest. Frontier used that same argument in February to support its proposed acquisition of Spirit, saying that creating the nation's fifth-biggest airline would save consumers \$1 billion a year. JetBlue offered \$33 per share in cash, which it said puts a 37% higher value on Spirit than does the Frontier offer. However, Frontier's bid would let Spirit shareholders keep 48.5% of the combined airline. Frontier said its cash-and-stock offer was worth \$2.9 billion, although a dip in Frontier's shares has reduced its value since February. (AP)

Nation

White House: US, allies to ban new investments in Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and Western allies plan to pile additional sanctions on Russia on Wednesday after the emergence of troubling new evidence of war crimes in Ukraine, according to the White House. The new penalties will include a ban on all new investment in Russia.

Among the other measures being taken against Russia are greater sanctions on its financial institutions and state-owned enterprises, and sanctions on government officials

and their family members, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

"The goal is to force them to make a choice," she said. "The biggest part of our objective here is to deplete the resources that Putin has to continue his war against Ukraine."

Separately, the Treasury Department moved Tuesday to block any Russian government debt payments with U.S. dollars from accounts at U.S. financial institutions, making it harder for Russia to meet its

financial obligations.

The Biden administration also announced Tuesday night that it was sending an additional \$100 million worth of military assistance to Ukraine. Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said the new equipment will meet "an urgent Ukrainian need for additional Javelin anti-armor systems."

President Joe Biden and U.S. allies have worked together to levy a crippling of economic penalties against Russia for invading Ukraine more than a

month ago, including the freezing of central bank assets, export controls and the seizing of property, including yachts, that belong to Russia's wealthy elite. But calls for increased sanctions intensified this week in response to the attacks, killings and destruction in the Ukrainian city of Bucha.

The sanctions are intended to further Russia's economic, financial and technological "isolation" from the rest of the world as a penalty for its attacks on civilians in Ukraine, Psaki said. That isolation is a key aspect of the U.S. strategy, which is premised on the idea that Russia will ultimately lack the resources and equipment to keep fighting a prolonged war in Ukraine.

Psaki said the administration is assessing "additional consequences and steps we can put in place" but underscored that Biden is not weighing any military action.

An increasingly desperate Russia has engaged in military tactics that have outraged much of the wider global community, leading to charges that it is committing war crimes and causing other sanctions.

Still, almost all of the EU has refrained from an outright ban on Russian oil and natural gas that would likely crush the Russian economy. The U.S. has banned fossil fuels from Russia, while Lithuania blocked natural gas from that country on Saturday, becoming the first of the 27-member EU to do so. The EU executive branch on Tuesday proposed a ban on Russian coal, while Germany's government intends to end its use of Russian natural gas over the next two years.

On Monday, Biden called for his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to be tried for war crimes and face new sanctions because of the atrocities and

abuses seen around Kyiv after Russian forces pulled back from the Ukrainian capital. The corpses of what appeared to be civilians were seen strewn in yards, many of them likely killed at close range.

Biden said the U.S. and its allies would gather details for a war crimes trial, stressing that Putin has been "brutal" and his actions "outrageous."

Associated Press journalists saw dozens of bodies in Bucha on the outskirts of Kyiv. There were at least 13 bodies in and around a building that local people said Russian troops used as a base. Three other bodies were found in a stairwell, and a group of six were burned together.

Many victims seen by the AP appeared to have been shot at close range. Some were shot in the head. At least two had their hands tied. A bag of spilled groceries lay near one victim.

Obama's back—for a day—in White House health bill push



Vice President Kamala Harris reacts as President Joe Biden shakes hands with former President Barack Obama after Obama jokingly called Biden vice president in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

WASHINGTON (AP)—With hugs, laughs and good-natured ribbing, Barack Obama on Tuesday returned to the White House for the first time in more than five years to savor the 12th anniversary of his signature health care law and give a boost to President Joe Biden's efforts to expand it.

The Affordable Care Act has survived repeated repeal attempts by Republicans.

Biden, who was Obama's No. 2 when "Obamacare" became law in March 2010, wants to extend the law's reach to even more than the current millions. He gave all

the credit for the original law to the former president.

"It's because of you," Biden said after good-naturedly introducing himself as Obama's vice president. Biden said the law "shows hope leads to change," a play on Obama's "hope and change" campaign slogan.

Obama was last at the White House on Jan. 20, 2017, when he left to escort Donald Trump, the successor bent on overturning the law, to the Capitol to be inaugurated. He spent more than four hours Wednesday meeting with Biden and greeting White House staff in what

was hoped would be a morale boost for the administration.

"It's good to be back in the White House. It's been awhile," he said after Vice President Kamala Harris introduced him in the East Room. Obama opened by referring to Biden as "vice president" before acknowledging that was a "set up" joke and embracing his former No. 2.

Obama said he and Biden accomplished "a lot" in their eight years but "nothing made me prouder than providing better health care and more protections to millions of people across this country."

Man arrested in Sacramento massacre had recently left prison

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A wounded man arrested in connection with a Sacramento shooting that killed six people and injured a dozen more had been released from prison weeks earlier and was rejected for even earlier release after prosecutors argued he "clearly has little regard for human life," documents show.

Smiley Martin, 27, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person and possession of a machine gun. Hours before Sunday's attack, Martin had posted a live Facebook video of himself brandishing a handgun, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

Police were trying to determine if a stolen handgun found at the crime scene was used in the massacre. It had been converted to a weapon capable of automatic gunfire. They also were trying to deter-

mine whether the gun Martin brandished in his video was used, the official told the AP. He was briefed on the investigation but was not authorized to publicly discuss details and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Martin and his brother were among those wounded when gunfire erupted near the state Capitol at about 2 a.m. Sunday as bars were closing and patrons filled the streets. More than 100 shots were unleashed in rapid-fire succession as hundreds of people scrambled to find safety. Authorities were trying to determine if a street fight outside a nightclub may have sparked the shooting.

The Sacramento County coroner identified the women killed as Johntaya Alexander, 21; Melinda Davis, 57; and Yamile Martinez-Andrade, 21. The three men killed were Sergio Harris, 38; Joshua Hoye-Lucchesi, 32; and De'vazia Turner, 29.

Martin remained hospitalized and will be booked on the charges when his condition improves enough for him to be jailed, a police statement said.

His brother, Dandrea Martin, 26, was arrested Monday as a "related suspect" on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and being a convict carrying a loaded gun. He was not seriously wounded and made a brief appearance on the gun possession charge Tuesday in Sacramento Superior Court wearing orange jail scrubs.

Investigators believe both brothers had stolen guns and are trying to determine how they got them, the law enforcement official told the AP.

A 31-year-old man who was seen carrying a handgun immediately after the shooting was arrested Tuesday on a weapons charge, though police said his gun was not believed to be used in the crime.



ACROSS THE NATION

White House to extend student loan pause through August

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration plans to freeze federal student loan payments through Aug. 31, extending a moratorium that has allowed millions of Americans to postpone payments during the coronavirus pandemic, according to an administration official familiar with the White House's decision-making. Student loan payments were scheduled to resume May 1 after being halted since early in the pandemic. But following calls from Democrats in Con-

gress, the White House plans to give borrowers additional time to prepare for payments. The action applies to more than 43 million Americans who owe a combined \$1.6 trillion in student debt held by the federal government, according to the latest data from the Education Department. That includes more than 7 million borrowers who have defaulted on student loans, meaning they are at least 270 days late on payments.

Ivanka Trump testifies before House Jan. 6 panel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ivan-

ka Trump, former President Donald Trump's daughter and one of those closest to him during the insurrection at the Capitol, is testifying before the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's chairman, said Tuesday afternoon that she had been answering investigators' questions on a video teleconference since the morning and was not "chatty" but had been helpful to the probe. "She came in on her own" and did not have to be subpoenaed, Thompson said. Ivanka Trump, who was with her father in the White

House that day, is one of more than 800 witnesses the committee has interviewed as it works to compile a record of the attack, the worst on the Capitol in more than two centuries. She the first of Trump's children known to speak to the committee and one of the closest people to her father. Whether she gives the committee new information or not, her decision to cooperate is significant for the panel.

GOP blocks Senate COVID bill, demands votes on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—

Republicans blocked a Democratic attempt Tuesday to begin Senate debate on a \$10 billion COVID-19 compromise, pressing to entangle the bipartisan package with an election-year showdown over immigration restrictions that poses a politically uncomfortable fight for Democrats. A day after Democratic and GOP bargainers reached agreement on providing the money for treatments, vaccines and testing, a Democratic move to push the measure past a procedural hurdle failed 52-47. All 50 Repub-

licans opposed the move, leaving Democrats 13 votes short of the 60 they needed to prevail. Hours earlier, Republicans said they'd withhold crucial support for the measure unless Democrats agreed to votes on an amendment preventing President Joe Biden from lifting Trump-era curbs on migrants entering the U.S. With Biden polling poorly on his handling of immigration and Democrats divided on the issue, Republicans see a focus on migrants as a fertile line of attack.

Asia

COVID OUTBREAK 'EXTREMELY GRIM' Shanghai extends lockdown

BEIJING (AP)—The COVID-19 outbreak in China's largest metropolis of Shanghai remains "extremely grim" amid an ongoing lockdown confining around 26 million people to their homes, a city official said Tuesday.

The director of Shanghai's working group on epidemic control, Gu Honghui, was quoted by state media as saying that the outbreak in the city was "still running at a high level."

"The situation is extremely grim," Gu said.

China has sent more than 10,000 health workers from around the country to aid the city, including 2,000 from the military, and is mass testing residents, some of whom have been locked down for weeks.

Most of eastern Shanghai, which was supposed to reopen last Friday, remained locked down along with the western half of the city.

Shanghai recorded another 13,354 cases on Monday—the vast majority of them asymptomatic—bringing the city's total to more than 73,000 since the latest wave of infections began last month. No deaths have been ascribed to the outbreak



Residents get their throat swab at a coronavirus testing site near residential buildings, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Beijing.

driven by the omicron BA.2 variant, which is much more infectious but also less lethal than the previous delta strain.

A separate outbreak continues to rage in the northeastern province of Jilin and the capital, Beijing, also saw an additional nine cases, just one of them asymptomatic. Workers shut down an entire shopping center in the city where a case had been detected.

While China's vaccination rate hovers around 90%, its domestically produced inactivated virus vaccines are seen as weaker than the mRNA

vaccines such as those produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna that are used abroad, as well as in the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macao. Vaccination rates among the elderly are also much lower than the population at large, with only around half of those over 80 fully vaccinated.

Meanwhile, complaints have arisen in Shanghai over difficulties obtaining food and daily necessities, and shortages of medical workers, volunteers and beds in isolation wards where tens of thousands are being kept for observation.

AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States, United Kingdom and Australia announced Tuesday they will work together via the recently created security alliance known as AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles.

The move comes amid growing concern by the U.S. and allies about China's growing military assertiveness in the Pacific. U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the plan after holding a check-in on the progress

of AUKUS, the Indo-Pacific alliance that was launched by the three countries in September.

The leaders said in a joint statement they are "committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defense innovation."

The U.S., Russia and China have all looked to further develop hypersonic missiles—a system so fast that it cannot be intercepted by any current missile defense system.

In October, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed that China had conducted a test of a hypersonic weapon system as part of its aggressive effort to advance in space and military technologies.

Milley described the Chinese test as a "very significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system, and it is very concerning," in a Bloomberg Television interview.

Russia has used hypersonic missiles "multiple" times in Ukraine, according to the top U.S. commander in Europe.

Myanmar orders banks' foreign money changed to kyats

BANGKOK (AP)—An order by Myanmar's central bank that all foreign currency in bank accounts must be converted into the local currency has many in the military-ruled country worried over potential losses.

Businesses and individuals were told in a notice issued Sunday that as of Monday they must convert dollars and other foreign currency into kyats within one day or face legal consequences.

Foreign currency can only be sent overseas with government approval, it said. It said

further details of the rules would follow.

Myanmar's military leaders are facing a raft of sanctions after they seized power on Feb. 1, 2021, ousting the country's elected government. The order to hand over foreign exchange suggests the authorities may be running short of hard currency needed to pay debts and purchase key supplies such as oil, gas and weapons.

Hard currency is also needed to repay foreign debt, which for Myanmar stands at about \$10-\$11 billion.

The central bank order in-

structed holders of foreign currency accounts in Myanmar to open new accounts to convert funds into kyats (pronounced CHUHTs). People earning foreign currency are supposed to also convert their money into kyats, which are not a convertible currency and are not supposed to be taken out of the country.

An official from Kanbawza Bank said Tuesday that some traders and sailors had come in to inquire about opening the required new business accounts but most said they would "think about it."

World

Killings of Ukrainian civilians could bring more sanctions



Ukrainian soldiers recover the remains of four killed civilians from inside a charred vehicle in Bucha, outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

BUCHA, Ukraine (AP)—Police and other investigators walked the silent streets of ruined towns around Ukraine's capital, documenting widespread killings of unarmed civilians and other alleged war crimes by Russian forces that could draw tough new Western sanctions as soon as Wednesday.

While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy kept up demands for war-crimes trials for Russian troops and their leaders, he and others increasingly warn that the Russians are regrouping for a new assault on Ukraine's east and south.

BUCHA, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the Russians of gruesome atrocities in Ukraine and told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that those responsible should immediately be brought up on war crimes charges in front of a tribunal like the one established at Nuremberg after World War II.

Over the past few days, grisly images of what appeared to be intentional killings of civilians carried out by Russian forces in Bucha and other towns before they withdrew from the outskirts of Kyiv have caused a global outcry and led Western nations to expel scores of Moscow's diplomats and propose further sanctions, including a ban on coal imports from Russia.

Zelenskyy, speaking via video from Ukraine to U.N.

diplomats, said that civilians had been tortured, shot in the back of the head, thrown down wells, blown up with grenades in their apartments and crushed to death by tanks while in cars.

"They cut off limbs, cut their throats. Women were raped and killed in front of their children," he said. He asserted that people's tongues were pulled out "only because their aggressor did not hear what they wanted to hear from them."

BUCHA, Ukraine (AP)—One blackened body had arms raised in supplication, the face contorted in a horrible scream. The skull of another had a bullet hole in the left temple. The small blackened foot of a child could be seen in the tangle of charred bodies piled together in Bucha, the town outside of Kyiv where graphic evidence of killings and torture has emerged following the withdrawal of Russian forces.

The six burned and blackened corpses were just the latest gruesome scene to emerge from Bucha as world leaders push for Russia to be held accountable, including for possible war crimes.

It was not clear who the people were or under what circumstances they were killed.

The pile of bodies, seen by Associated Press journalists Tuesday, was just off a residential street,

near a colorful and empty playground, visible to passersby as they warily went outdoors to collect aid.

In a house nearby, the twisted and bloody body of a young man who had been shot to death lay in the basement entrance. At least four other bodies lay strewn in the street, one with the eye gouged out, apparently by a bullet.

"It's horrible," said Ukrainian Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky at the scene, which included other journalists. The minister said Russian President Vladimir Putin should "go to hell."

So far, Ukrainian forces are holding back Russian troops trying to push into the country's east, but they remain outnumbered in both troops and equipment, Zelenskyy said in a video address to his country late Tuesday.

"But we don't have a choice—the fate of our land and of our people is being decided," he said. "We know what we are fighting for. And we will do everything to win."

Over the past few days, a global outcry erupted over grisly images of what appeared to be intentional killings of civilians in Bucha and other towns before Russian forces withdrew from the outskirts of Kyiv. The evidence has led Western nations to expel scores of Moscow's diplomats and propose further sanctions.

Environment

Sugar Dock Rehabilitation moves forward



IVA MAURIN

Sugar Dock is a popular destination for families, fishermen, divers, and surfers. A Sugar Dock Rehabilitation project is currently underway, and members of the community can join in, participate, and air their feedback in the informal meeting set on Wednesday, April 13, 5pm at Sugar Dock.

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Talks about the Sugar Dock (Bantalan) rehabilitation are up once again, and members of the community are being invited to participate in an informal meeting about the project, hosted by the offices of Precinct 2 Reps. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

The meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 5pm at Sugar Dock, provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the status of the project and as well as to solicit feedback.

“Think about the kind of place you’d like Sugar Dock to be, and the enhancements that would make it safer and even more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike. Then come and share your great ideas

with the project managers next week,” Rep. Tina Sablan said.

Sugar Dock Beach in Chalan Kanoa is a favorite spot not only for fishermen, but for beachgoers, especially families wanting to have an enjoyable picnic and surfers looking to catch a wave.

“It’s a popular site that generations have enjoyed for family gatherings, swimming, diving, surfing, boating and fishing, and of course, jumping off the dock. It’s also rich in history and breathtakingly beautiful. And unfortunately, it’s been battered pretty hard by time and the elements, including severe typhoons in recent years,” the legislator added.

Tropical storms and large swell events drive coastal erosions, as evidenced near and by the Sugar Dock boat launch

area, according to the Saipan Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment study, published in January 2014.

Shortly after the study was released, and incidentally, Sugar Dock’s outer dock area collapsed and had to be closed—and deemed unstable, unsafe, and dangerous—in July 2014, by the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Public Works.

The fence and the warning sign have since been removed. Through the years, the cracks have worsened, but repairs have yet to be done.

In 2016, efforts to rehabili-

tate Sugar Dock were initiated by Rep. John Paul Sablan, already serving as a legislator, along with then-House speaker Rafael S. Demapan, with the two gathering and meeting with representatives from agencies such as the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental and

Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and

the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs on how to go about the project.

In 2018, as discussions on the project continued, the historical significance of Sugar Dock was highlighted by the DCCA’s Historical Preservation Office. With Sugar Dock

having “the defining features of a national historic landmark,” some protocols needed to be followed.

The project is now moving forward, with funding through the local appropriations from the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, managed by the CNMI Department of Public Works. YSE Engineering has been contracted, and has prepared design drawings for the reconstruction of the Sugar Dock facility.

“Project plans call for the demolition of the existing structure with a new similar structure reconstructed on the same footprint,” Rep. Tina Sablan said.

“The design of the new dock will follow guidance from the Historic Preservation Office. The shallow beach area immediately north of Sugar Dock

would be dredged to make the boat launching ramp functional,” she added.

The design drawings prepared by YSE Engineering, as well as maps and historical and aerial photographs, have been made accessible to the public by the legislator via google drive.

Design Drawing: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CR-u_8fSTmqCWdKPsIgLS35dQJH0JimL/view?fbclid=IwAR1hufzJ00pFzFFxR6Q8JN1-G1OJ8yT7UGvhJARb-3Si8vSjDmz-sW-cqCwo

Maps and photographs: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CQqklm02T7X-eNd-hH_cle2NkhNzbEwZC/view?fbclid=IwAR3sCDyHmEkjqYafiCA1VgF_Ra6_erg-L37K4fSDzq5UOeXY-4BAdkGXFbgA

» Community meeting on April 13, 5pm

New G3 Conservation Corps members in motion



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Members of the second Guam Green Growth Conservation Corps cohort display the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals during their program orientation on March 14 at the University of Guam in Mangilao. The G3 Conservation Corps is a five-month workforce development program that will prepare 12 selected applicants for Guam’s emerging green economy.

A second cycle of sustainability leaders kicked off their first week under one of the Guam Green Growth initiative’s most highly mobilized programs on March 14 at the University of Guam.

Out of more than 100 applicants, 12 members were selected to participate in the G3 Conservation Corps, entering

a workforce development program preparing the island community for the emerging green economy. Over the five-month program, they will partake in various conservation activities to support the resilience of the island and its natural resources.

The new members are Jenelle Aguilar, Rejean Benavente, Johnny Borja, Ja-

cob Concepcion, Remilou Hannigan, Dulce Imbo, Wade Kitalong, Andrea Murer, Ryan Perez, Christopher Quichoco, Hila’an San Nicolas, and Tre Starr.

Workforce development for a green economy

Their first week started with an orientation, including re-

marks from G3 leadership, team-building exercises, tips from a panel of inaugural cohort members, and the recitation of the new Conservation Corps pledge.

The corps members have also completed their first island beautification project: gardening in the colorful cliff-side planter boxes on the UOG campus that also display the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

“The corps will bring together hundreds of different members from our community...to do amazing things to move our island forward toward a sustainable future,” said Austin Shelton, G3 Steering Committee co-chairperson and director of the Center for Island Sustainability at the University of Guam, which facilitates the G3 initiative. “At the same time, the corps will receive valuable workforce training to join the green workforce when they complete the program.”

Motivated toward more sustainable living

Borja shared his motivation for joining the corps. “Growing up on this island, we really [have] a lot of love for our culture and our environment. Seeing some of it deteriorate in our young lives, I feel like it’s really good to be able to set the foundation for the future, to teach better ways, so our island stays beautiful, and we can share it with everyone,” he said.

Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, G3 Steering Committee chairperson, spoke at the orientation, saying the pandemic has shown how necessary it is for Guam residents to be able to sustain themselves with the island’s resources.

“I want you to learn as much as you can and send that knowledge out and apply that knowledge out to the community,” she said. “[...] Our island is very fragile. I love our island. I’m sure you all do. We live here. No one else is going to do it but ourselves, and I really appreciate your commit-

ment and your efforts.”

In their first few weeks, the members are scheduled to assist with the expansion of the G3 Community Garden in Hagåtña, familiarize with Guam’s waste management and zero waste operations, and partake in regular village revitalization projects.

The G3 Conservation Corps is supported by Guam’s Recycling Revolving Fund with approval from the Guam Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors.

About G3

Aligned with the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the Guam Green Growth initiative, or G3, cultivates an ecosystem for transformative action to achieve a sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future for Guam. The University of Guam facilitates the island-wide initiative in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of Guam and the 100 members of the G3 Working Groups, representing all sectors of society. (PR)

Life & Style

Famed directors denounce sexual abuse in Japanese filmmaking

TOKYO (AP)—A #MeToo crisis is raging in the Japanese film industry.

A petition signed by top names, including Cannes'

Palme d'Or-winning Hirokazu Kore-eda, Cannes Jury Prize winner Koji Fukada and "Under the Sky" director Miwa Nishikawa, expresses outrage

over sexual abuse.

"These acts are unforgivable," the statement said, calling for such acts to stop.

The outburst comes after the

premiere of two films directed by Hideo Sakaki, "Mitsugetsu" and "Hazard Lamp," was suddenly canceled after a Japanese magazine, Shukan Bunshun, reported allegations of sexual violence from several women.

His production company denounced sexual abuse and announced Sakaki had departed. Sakaki has apolo-

gized in a statement to fans and co-workers for the cancellations, while noting inaccuracies in the report, which he didn't specify.

Actor Houka Kinoshita has paused his career after two women accused him of demanding sex against their will a decade ago. A TV drama series aired earlier this week with all his scenes cut.

"I cannot appear before you and continue with my entertainment work after what I have done, and I will be taking a leave for an indefinite period," Kinoshita said in a statement.

Allegations have been made, too, against Shion Sono, a director who's been honored at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Director of 'Drive My Car' surprised by Oscar, popularity

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi says he was surprised by the international popularity of his Oscar-winning film "Drive My Car," but attributes it to the universality of the short story by Haruki Murakami on which it is based.

The movie centers on an actor played by Hidetoshi Nishijima who is directing a multilingual production of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya." Still mourning the sudden loss of his wife, the actor, Kafuku,

leads the cast in rehearsals in which they sit and read their lines flatly, ingesting the language for days before acting them out.

The 3-hour-long story of grief, connection and recovery won an Academy Award last month for best international feature film.

"Actually I was surprised by how widely this film has been accepted," Hamaguchi said at



Hamaguchi

a news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday, his first major event since the Oscar.

While attributing its popularity to the universality of Murakami's story, Hamaguchi said the actors "put it on the screen in a very convincing way, even though I'm sure it was an extremely challenging task for them to embody Haruki Murakami's worldview."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rabih Alameddine wins PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Rabih Alameddine's "The Wrong End of the Telescope," a novel written in the second person about a transgender doctor named Mina who works in a refugee camp for Syrians, has won the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. "This novel explores the complexities of the refugees' lives and the intricacies of Mina's relationships, examines the many angles of a timely and vital subject, and probes the life-changing choices humans are forced to make," according to a statement issued Tuesday by award judges. "The exquisite language suspends time and investigates the intricacies of seeking refuge, both from geopolitical disruptions and from one's own

patterns of life." Alameddine, a Lebanese American whose other works include the National Book Award finalist "An Unnecessary Woman," will receive \$15,000. Philip Roth, E.L. Doctorow and Karen Jay Fowler are among the previous PEN/Faulkner winners.

Ishmael Reed among winners of Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Author, playwright and longtime champion of multiculturalism Ishmael Reed is receiving a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to literature. Reed is among this year's winners of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, given for work that "confronts racism and explores diversity," the Cleveland Foundation announced Tuesday. Percival Ev-

rett's novel "The Trees" won for fiction and Donika Kelly's "The Renunciations" was cited for poetry. Prizes for nonfiction were given to George Makari's "Of Fear and Strangers: A History of Xenophobia" and Tiya Miles' "All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake." "This year, we honor a satiric novel about lynching disguised as a detective story, a poetry collection that remakes the meanings of childhood abuse, an innovative look at the idea of xenophobia, and a story of recovered history based on an embroidered sack," jury chair Henry Louis Gates Jr. said in a statement. "All is capped by the lifetime achievement of Ishmael Reed, a genre-bending and genre-transcending colossus of literature."

Rapper Tory Lanez jailed again in Megan Thee Stallion case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper Tory Lanez was briefly jailed Tuesday after a judge said he had violated a protective order in a felony assault case in which he is charged with shooting rapper Megan Thee Stallion in the feet.

Lanez, 29, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, was handcuffed in a Los Angeles courtroom and taken to jail. He posted bail and was released several hours later.

At the hearing, Superior Court Judge David Herriford found that Peterson had violated orders that he not contact or harass Megan and that he not discuss evidence with outside parties.

While Peterson didn't di-



This combination photo shows Tory Lanez performing at HOT 97 Summer Jam 2019 in East Rutherford, N.J. on June 2, 2019, left, and Megan Thee Stallion attending the 5th annual Diamond Ball benefit gala in New York on Sept. 12, 2019. **AP**

rectly contact Megan, Herriford said some of his tweets appeared to be clear messages

to her, and he ordered Peterson not to mention her in any social media.

Doris Day's animal charity honors late star with fundraiser

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 100th anniversary of Doris Day's birthday is being recognized with a social-media fundraiser honoring her passion for animals.

The Doris Day Animal Foundation, a charity that supports animal welfare programs nationwide, is asking "animal lovers" everywhere to donate and celebrate her legacy.

The foundation announced

a goal of \$100,00 in donations, which it said it would match with funds to benefit animals affected by the war in Ukraine.

Day, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 3, 1922, created the nonprofit group, originally known as the Doris Day Pet Foundation, in 1978. She died in May 2019 at age 97.

A singer and actor best known for 1950s romantic com-

edies including "Pillow Talk" and "Lover Come Back," Day also starred in dramas, including Alfred Hitchcock's "The Man Who Knew Too Much."

In a statement, the foundation asked people to post photos and videos with the hashtag #Doris-Day100 that show how the "legacy of Doris and her enduring passion for animal welfare" is being carried on.

Gay man wishes he had straight male friends

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old gay man. I'm well-educated, but there's something I can't figure out. Why do straight guys NOT want to be friends? I never hit on them, I enjoy a lot of the same pastimes like games, working on cars, etc. I want to be transparent, but when I tell them upfront, they disappear.

Sometimes it gets back to me that they thought I was asking them on a date if I invited someone to go to a ballgame, for example. I have plenty of female friends, but what I really want is a male best friend or, hell, just a male friend, period.

Of course, everyone has their own opinions on what I should do—"join a meeting, a group, social activities and blah blah." I have done all of those things, and I can't figure out what's wrong. I have now learned to just keep my mouth shut and not invite anyone to do anything.

Any suggestions would be welcomed, but I have pretty much tried everything, including seeing a counselor.

CURIOUS IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR CURIOUS: The problem you're having with straight men may be that they are nervous about being perceived as "gay by association" if they are friendly with you. Some may also find the concept of being friends with a gay man to be threatening.

Taking part in group activities and outings is certainly a way to connect with others regardless of sexual orientation. Eventually, you'll meet people and form friendships. In the meantime, appreciate those female friends of yours and ask them for some input, too.

DEAR ABBY: This has been a rough pandemic for all of us. We have all experienced the constant fear of disease, job loss and the pressure to react to those stresses in prescribed ways that aren't always easy. For those of us who deal with mental health issues on the best of days, it has become a real struggle.

I have a group of friends who have not managed to do well through it all. Previous issues multiplied, and their lives have become pitiable messes. Early on in the pandemic, we attempted to keep moods up with weekly Zoom hangouts. It helped a little, but because my mental status has always been a little better than theirs, I was never a focus of support.

As the world has begun to open up, we have been able to see each other in person, and it has become obvious to me that I need to distance myself from them to protect what I have worked so hard to maintain. Do I owe them an explanation about why I cannot be with them? I worry that pointing out that things are not good would drag them down further.

These are people I have known for decades, but I don't have

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the energy to act as emotional support for them anymore. I'd like to leave them in the best shape I can. What should I say to them?

CARING FRIEND IN THE EAST

DEAR CARING FRIEND: Be less available when you are contacted. When you do, your excuse should be truthful. Say you need time to yourself to work on your own mental health issues and therefore will be less available. You do not have to apologize for it, nor should you feel guilty for taking care of yourself.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

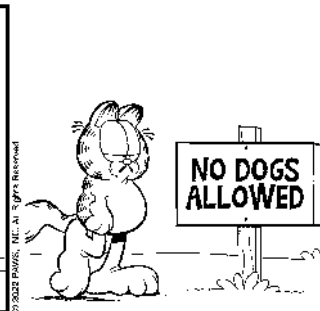
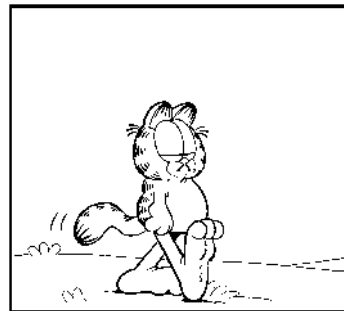
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



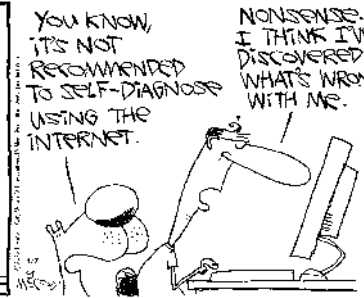
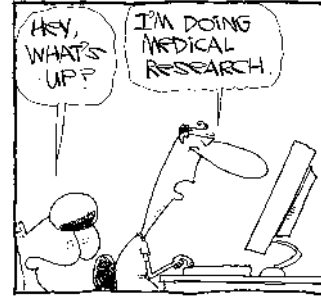
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Hey, you!"

5 Gratuity

8 Notion

12 Choir voices

13 Old French coin

14 Barracks beds

15 Gloomy

16 Pirates' drink

17 Hearty quaffs

18 Prom attendee

20 Stickler

22 Financial pro

23 Fanatic

24 Slimming surgery, briefly

27 Open car

32 First lady?

33 Author Fleming

34 Myrna of film

35 Large power unit

38 Nota —

39 Miracle —

DOWN

40 Shoe width

42 Jolts

45 Full-bore

49 Ancient Brit

50 Back muscle, briefly

52 Songbird

53 Jai —

54 Undivided

55 "It can't be!"

56 Platter

57 Happy hour venue

58 Wimp

1 Cushions

2 Tart fruit

3 Dazzle

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Russell Crowe, 58; Jackie Chan, 68; John Oates, 73; Francis Ford Coppola, 83.

Happy Birthday: An energetic approach to life, love and happiness will take you on a journey you won't want to miss this year. Press forward with your plans, and engage in anything that offers insight into something that brings you satisfaction and joy. Live life your way, and make decisions based on intelligence and common sense. Strive to use your skills and knowledge limitlessly. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 24, 33, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen before you respond. Don't get involved in a debate with someone stubborn or vengeful. Base what you do and your decisions on facts and capabilities. Don't take on someone's problem, debt or fight. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Discuss sensitive issues openly and honestly. Ignoring problems will lead to assumptions. Be assertive, and get to the bottom of any situation that can hurt your status or reputation. Don't hide information or let stubbornness lead to a mistake. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Target your goal and test your skills. Refuse to let an emotional situation escalate or keep you from pursuing what's important to you. Set expectations, and don't lose sight of your goal until you are satisfied with the results. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Practice makes perfect. Hone your skills, and use them to impress someone who can help

improve your life. Don't let self-consciousness or being inverted stand between you and what you desire. Step into the spotlight, and present your physical attributes. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Share your experience, and put your expertise to good use. A diligent approach to using what's available to you will enhance your chance to reap the rewards. Don't feel you have to spend money to buy someone's attention or affection. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A physical display will make your objective clear and conclusive. Don't beat around the bush when time is of the essence. Think outside the box, follow your heart and intuition, and make your dreams a reality. Don't second-guess yourself. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Curb your emotions. If you are too revealing, you will raise a red flag that takes away from what you are trying to achieve. Be smart, use common sense and start by moving forward with your plans all by yourself. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your plans in motion. Invest in yourself, your surroundings and your long-term goal. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Put emphasis on your attributes, and sidle up to people who share your vision. Networking will lead to opportunities. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your energy where it counts, and don't waste time on people who are bad influences or indulgences that will slow you down financially or physically. Think through your plans,

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

and build a solid base. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't invite trouble. Make changes that don't require permission or help from others. Put your energy and time into taking physical action and doing the work yourself. Keep your emotions out of the mix, and concentrate on being fruitful. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set your goals high and your mind fixed on the best route forward. Embrace supportive people and offer positive input that contributes to your success. A good plan and disciplined attitude will take you to the winner's circle. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check what everyone is doing and offset anything that might deter you from pushing forward with your plans. A change will help you put things in perspective and adjust your plans accordingly. Think big, but stay within your budget and capabilities. **

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, compassionate and helpful. You are insightful and focused.

⊙ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☉ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽ Aim high; start new projects. ☿ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			8	2						
			3		4					
3		4				9		5		
	6						9	2		
1									7	
4	8							3		
7		9				1			4	
			4		1					
				5	6					

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/07

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	2	4	1	9	7	5	8	6
7	1	6	8	3	5	4	9	2
9	8	5	6	4	2	3	1	7
8	4	2	5	1	3	6	7	9
6	9	1	2	7	4	8	3	5
5	3	7	9	6	8	1	2	4
1	7	9	3	5	6	2	4	8
4	6	8	7	2	1	9	5	3
2	5	3	4	8	9	7	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/07

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S THERAPEUTIC

Solution: 7 letters

R S P A N B R E A T H I N G I
G E K M U S I C R P K O O C N
E N F E K G S S E N L L E W V
R F I L T W N D A C F C O A E
U I A R E C I I D C N F C H N
C T C R O C H E T E A A R O T
I N Y E U L T I L P T R D B I
N E D R A G O I N I L M D B N
A S E U T T S C O G K U L I G
M S B T R E P N R N W O C E O
C E G A T T O C E A G R E S T
Y P V N K O R P L U F I S H N
C E D I N E T K I B A T H E I
L T E G A S S A M P O H S T A
E S E X E R C I S E L Z Z U P

©2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

4/7

Bake, Bathe, Blog, Breathing, Cardio, Coloring, Cook, Cottage, Crafts, Crochet, Cycle, Dance, Dine, Exercise, Farm, Fish, Fitness, Garden, Go!, Hobbies, Inventing, Manicure, Massage, Music, Naps, Nature, Paint, Pedicure, Pets, Poetry, Puzzles, Read, Reflection, Rest, Sculpting, Shop, Silence, Sketching, Smile, Sports, Talks, Travel, Vacation, Walk, Wellness

Yesterday's Answer: Bioweapon

The NEW Treasury 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Booker scores 32, Suns eliminate Lakers from playoff race



PHOENIX (AP)— The shots kept falling for Devin Booker, who appeared he was trying to prove a point.

The Phoenix Suns are the best team in the NBA this season and, according to the standings, it isn't particularly close.

Booker scored 32 points to lead the Suns to their franchise-record 63rd victory Tuesday night, beating a Lakers team minus LeBron James 121-110 to eliminate Los Angeles from the playoff race.

"Tonight is unbelievably special for so many people," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "Not just the organization, but the people in the city, who have basically birthed the Suns. Everywhere I go, people say the Suns are their baby."

"It's hard to put it into words, but we're all pretty grateful."

Booker signed his jersey during the postgame celebration before handing it to team radio broadcaster Al McCoy, who is in the midst of his 50th season on the microphone. McCoy has watched a lot of good basketball over a half century — describing stars such as Charles Barkley, Walter Davis and Steve Nash — but none of them won as many games for the Suns in one season as this Booker and Chris Paul-led team.

Phoenix is 63-16, which is eight games better than the Memphis Grizzlies, who have the second-most wins in the NBA.

It was a tight game on Tuesday during the first half but Phoenix used a 29-9 run in the third quarter to create separation. The rest of the night was essentially a celebration for the Suns, who danced and dunked their way past the forlorn Lakers.

"All I could do the last five seconds of the game is tell everybody how much I appreciate them," Suns forward Deandre Ayton said. "And there's a lot more to go. But on this team, we celebrate everything."

Los Angeles — playing without James for a second consecutive game because of a sprained ankle — has lost seven straight. Russell Westbrook scored 28 points while Anthony Davis added 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said he was "extremely disappointed" that his team won't play in the postseason.

"We fell short. We were eliminated tonight," he said. "I can say it has not been due to lack of effort. We have all put in the work. Our guys stayed fighting right until the end. We brought integrity to the process. We just fell short though



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James talks with Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Phoenix.

a disjointed season."

Ayton had 22 points for Phoenix, which avoided its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Even without James, the Lakers led for a big chunk of the first half. But the Suns started to take control late in the second quarter, and two straight alley-oops from Paul to Ayton put Phoenix up 56-50.

76ers 131, Pacers 122

In Indianapolis, Joel Embiid had 45 points and 13 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers made a franchise-record 17 3-pointers in the first half of a 131-122 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night that moved them into a tie with Boston atop the Atlantic Division.

Embiid banked in a 3-point-er at the first-quarter buzzer and shot 18 for 30 overall while moving into the NBA scoring lead with 30.4 points per game.

He had 27 points and seven rebounds in the first half, helping Philadelphia take control with a 49-point second quarter that led to an 82-59 half-time lead.

Buddy Hield scored 25 points and Tyrese Haliburton had 21 points, eight rebounds and five assists for Indiana, which has lost a season-worst eight in a row.

Nets 118, Rockets 105

In New York, Kyrie Irving scored 42 points and Brooklyn beat Houston to improve its position in the race for play-in seeding.

Irving had 17 points in the fourth quarter. Kevin Durant added 18 points, Bruce Brown

had 15 and Cam Thomas 13 for the Nets. Andre Drummond finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

With Cleveland, Atlanta and Charlotte all losing, the Nets climbed into a tie for eighth place in the Eastern Conference, just 1 1/2 games behind the Cavaliers. The No. 7 seed hosts a game to open the tournament.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored a season-high 36 points and Jalen Green added 30 for the Rockets.

Raptors 118, Hawks 108

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam had 31 points and 13 rebounds, Scottie Barnes added 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Toronto clinched a playoff berth by beating Atlanta.

Chris Boucher scored 18 points, Gary Trent Jr. had 14, Fred VanVleet 12 and Precious Achiuwa 11. Toronto has won 12 of 16. The victory, coupled with Cleveland's loss at Orlando, ensured the Raptors (46-33) will finish no lower than sixth in the Eastern Conference.

Sixth place is the last guaranteed postseason spot, with teams finishing in the Nos. 7-10 spots headed for the play-in tournament.

Trae Young had 26 points and 15 assists for the Hawks, who lost for the first time in six games and locked themselves into a play-in berth. Atlanta (41-38) and Brooklyn are 1 1/2 games behind seventh-place Cleveland.

Jazz 121, Grizzlies 115, OT

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 22 points and 21 rebounds, and Utah clinched a playoff

berth by beating Memphis in overtime.

Jordan Clarkson also finished with 22 points for the Jazz. Donovan Mitchell added 20 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Hassan Whiteside had 14 points and 10 boards off the bench.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 28 for the Grizzlies. Tyus Jones added 24 points and Desmond Bane had 23 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

Memphis played without its top two scorers. Ja Morant (right knee soreness) and Dillon Brooks (right hip soreness) were both inactive.

Bucks 127, Bulls 106

In Chicago, Brook Lopez scored a season-high 28 points and Milwaukee overcame a rather quiet performance from Giannis Antetokounmpo to clinch its fourth straight Central Division championship with a victory over Chicago.

The defending NBA champion Bucks haven't been on a run like this since Don Nelson's teams won seven consecutive division titles in the 1980s.

They took control early and completed a four-game season sweep of Chicago even though DeMar DeRozan scored 40 for the Bulls.

Antetokounmpo, trying to overtake LeBron James and Joel Embiid in a tight race for his first scoring title, finished with 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. But the two-time MVP started slow and spent most of the fourth quarter on the bench after picking up his fifth foul.

Lopez had his best performance after missing most

of the season because of a back injury. Khris Middleton scored 19.

Pelicans 123, Kings 109

In Sacramento, Calif., CJ McCollum and Jaxson Hayes each scored 23 points and New Orleans secured a spot in the Western Conference play-in tournament by beating Sacramento.

Brandon Ingram added 17 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for the Pelicans (35-44), who never trailed. New Orleans has won four of five.

Damian Jones had 22 points the Kings, eliminated from playoff contention Sunday for an NBA-record 16th consecutive season.

Heat 144, Hornets 115

In Miami, Tyler Herro scored 35 points off the bench and Miami moved closer to clinching the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs with a victory over Charlotte.

Miami won its fifth straight and posted the second-highest point total in franchise history, while the Hornets allowed 144 for the second consecutive game after a 144-112 loss Saturday at Philadelphia.

Jimmy Butler added 27 points, Bam Adebayo had 22 and Duncan Robinson broke out of a recent scoring slump with 21 points for the Heat, who need to win one of their two remaining games to secure the top spot in the East. Robinson shot 7 of 11 on 3-pointers after averaging 5.7 points in his previous six games, including two scoreless outings.

Miami finished 23 of 42 from 3-point range. Herro was 8 of 14 from behind the arc and tied Dwyane Wade's single-game record for points by a Heat reserve.

Miles Bridges scored 29 points and LaMelo Ball finished with 18 points and 14 assists for Charlotte, which dropped to 10th in the East but has clinched a berth in the play-in tournament.

Spurs 116, Nuggets 97

In Denver, Devin Vassell and Keldon Johnson each scored 20 points to help San Antonio move closer to securing a spot in the play-in tournament by defeating Denver.

Reigning MVP Nikola Jokic had 41 points and 17 rebounds for the Nuggets, who had a chance to clinch a playoff spot with a win after Minnesota lost to Washington.

The Spurs had six players score in double figures as they won a regular-season game in Denver for the first time since Jan. 5, 2017. But it wasn't easy even after San Antonio built a lead that stretched to 21 late in the second quarter.

The Nuggets cut it to four early in the fourth, only to see the Spurs go on a 14-2 surge to regain momentum.

Magic 120, Cavaliers 115

In Orlando, Fla., Mo Bamba had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Ignas Brazdeikis scored 20 off the bench and Orlando beat Cleveland to stop a six-game losing streak.

Moritz Wagner scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the Magic.

Darius Garland had 27 points and 10 assists, and Lauri Markkanen added 25 points for the injury-riddled Cavaliers, who have dropped eight of 10 and are locked into the play-in tournament. Cleveland is trying to hold onto seventh place in the Eastern Conference with two regular-season games remaining.

Markelle Fultz finished with 16 points and six assists for Orlando in his first start of the season after returning from a knee injury.

Wizards 132, Timberwolves 114

In Minneapolis, Kristaps Porzingis scored 25 points, including 12 in the third quarter as Washington took control against Minnesota.

Rui Hachimura tied a season high with 21 points and Daniel Gafford had 24 points and 12 rebounds off the bench for Washington. The Wizards were coming off a 144-102 loss at Boston to open their three-game road trip but have won five of seven.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, while D'Angelo Russell finished with 17 points and 11 assists. The Timberwolves are seventh in the Western Conference, almost out of time to climb above the cut and avoid the play-in tournament with two regular-season games remaining.

Thunder 98, Trail Blazers 94

In Oklahoma City, Jaylen Hoard had career highs of 24 points and 21 rebounds to help Oklahoma City top Portland.

Isaiah Roby had 18 points and a career-high six steals, Georgios Kalaitzakis scored 17 points and Olivier Sarr had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder. Oklahoma City improved to 4-0 against the Trail Blazers this season.

Keon Johnson scored 18 points and Greg Brown III and Ben McLemore each had 17 for Portland, which lost its eighth straight.

The Trail Blazers led 82-67 heading into the fourth quarter, but Oklahoma City held Portland to 12 points on 5-for-19 shooting in the final 12 minutes.

Sign of times: MLB gives OK to electronic pitch calling

NEW YORK (AP)—In a move that ends a tradition dating more than 150 years, Major League Baseball approved the use of an electronic device for catchers to signal pitches in an effort to eliminate sign stealing and speed games.

Since the beginning of baseball in the 19th century, catchers had used their fingers to signal the type of pitch and its intended location.

As video at ballparks increased in the 21st century, so did sign stealing — and worries about how teams were trying to swipe signals. The Houston Astros were penalized for using a camera and banging a trash can to alert their batters to pitch types during their run to the 2017 World Series title.

“It basically eliminates all need to create a sign system, for a catcher giving signs,” MLB chief operations and strategy officer Chris Marinak said Tuesday. “You literally just press a button and it delivers the pitch call to the pitcher. And what we’ve seen so far, it really improves pace of game.”

Some teams tried the system in spring training, with manager Tony La Russa of the Chicago White Sox and Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees among those saying they liked what they saw.

Yankees catcher Kyle Higashioka used it a couple times this spring training, including Tuesday with pitcher Michael King against Detroit in New York’s final exhibition game.

“There’s still some stuff we’ve got to work through, but I mean the fail safe is always just give signs. So, that’s always there when we need it. We’re just working out all the kinks right now. If we run into stumbling blocks in-game, we can always give signs. I’m not too worried about it being confusing,” he said.



The electronic pitch-calling system approved by Major League Baseball, sits on display, Tuesday, April 5, 2022 in New York. **AP**

“I like it. At first today I gave signs to King because I didn’t have a chance to talk to him about it, so I started getting all messed up with it. So I just decided to give signs, and that worked fine,” he said.

MLB is providing each team with three transmitters, 10 receivers and a charging case for the PitchCom Pitcher Catcher Communication Device. It is available in English and Spanish.

“A maximum of five receivers and one transmitter may be in any use at any given time,” MLB wrote in a five-page memorandum Tuesday to general managers, assistant GMs, managers and equipment managers, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

A catcher has nine choices on his wristband device: “four seam high inside, curve hi middle, slider hi

outside, change mid inside, sinker middle, cutter mid out, splitter low inside, knuckle lo middle, two seam low outside.”

A thin band tucked inside a cap allows the audio to be heard at an adjustable level, envisioned to be used by pitchers, second baseman, shortstops and center fielders.

“When changing pitchers, the manager shall provide a receiver to the replacement pitcher,” the memo said.

Receivers and transmitters can be used only on the field and may not be operated during games in clubhouses, dugouts or bullpens.

“Signals communicated via PitchCom may only be given by the catcher in the game. Signals may not be sent from the dugout, bullpen, a different player in the field, or anywhere else,” the

memo said. “Clubs are responsible for their PitchCom devices. Any club that loses a transmitter or receiver will be charged a replacement fee of \$5,000 per unit.”

Marinak said about half of the 30 MLB clubs had expressed interest.

“I’m not sure that every team will use it,” Marinak said during MLB’s third annual innovation and fan engagement showcase. “I think this is a kind of a personal preference kind of thing.”

Union head Tony Clark pointed out the devices are not mandatory.

“It was important to ensure the flexibility for players to use — or not use — the technology at their own discretion,” the former All-Star first baseman said in a statement. “The guys on the field are in the best position to

make decisions as individuals about whether it’s right for them.”

Players may not longer watch in-game video replays on clubhouse televisions but may review video only on iPads controlled by the MLB office. The video will be updated only at the end of each half-inning and players can go back and replay, but may not see content during a half-inning in progress.

“Players don’t have access to any technology that’s above and beyond what we’re offering in terms of in-game video,” Marinak said. “We also monitor all the transmission of traffic so that we understand what content is being delivered to the iPad.”

The new system of umpires having microphones to explain video reviews to fans began with an exhibition game at Dodger Stadium on Monday night. MLB also

is now taking in video from 104 of 120 minor league ballparks.

The automated ball/strike system of computer plate umpires will be used at 10 Triple-A West parks, Charlotte in Triple-A East and Low-A Southeast. MLB intends to illustrate the calls on stadium scoreboards.

Pitch clocks will be used at all minor league stadiums, likely a prelude to their installation at big league ballparks for 2023.

MLB showed off its new 1,400-square foot replay operations center in midtown Manhattan, which opened just as COVID-19 struck in 2020 and replaced a 900-square foot facility in SoHo that had been used since 2014.

There are 90 46-inch professional monitors and 60 24-inch touchscreen monitors in the 31 x 29-foot room, with three desks with six screens behind them for supervisors and administrators, then two more rows with technicians.

MLB takes in 18 cameras from each ballpark showing 60 frames per second plus up to four high-speed cameras as fast as 360-480 frames per second, according to Chris Zagorski, vice president of replay operations and technology.

There is a backup replay center in San Francisco, in case of a power outage in New York. For special event games such as in Dyersville, Iowa, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and London, a replay room is set up on site.

Marinak said that fans using the MLB Ballpark app to enter stadiums with electronic tickets rose from 3% in 2017 to 19% in 2019 to 56% in 2021.

MLB also said the earliest helmet advertisements would begin appearing would be during the 2022 postseason. Players agreed last month to uniform and helmet ads, and the jersey ads will not start until 2023 at the earliest.

Brewers’ Severino suspended 80 games for fertility drug

NEW YORK (AP)—Milwaukee catcher Pedro Severino was suspended for 80 games on Tuesday following a positive drug test, the fourth major leaguer penalized in two days.

Severino tested positive for the performance-enhancing substance Clomiphene, the commissioner’s office said. The women’s fertility drug has been used by some athletes to counter side effects of steroids use.

Severino will lose about half his \$1.9 million salary.

He apologized to the Brewers, teammates and fans.

“Since late 2020, my wife and I had been trying to start a family unsuccessfully,” Severino said in a statement issued by the players’ association. “When we returned to the Dominican Republic after the 2021 season, we sought medical assistance to determine why we had not succeeded. One of the doctors I consulted with prescribed me with a medication to treat infertility issues. Unfortunately, I now know that the medication con-

tained Clomiphene. I accept responsibility for this mistake and have decided not to challenge my suspension.”

A seven-year major league veteran, the 28-year-old is in his first season with the Brewers after playing for Washington and Baltimore. He hit .248 with 11 homers and 46 RBIs last season for the Orioles, leaving him with a .235 career average with 33 homers and 133 RBIs.

“I have been tested more than 100 times in my career and I had never had an issue,” Severino said.

Severino batted .435 with two homers and nine RBIs in eight spring training games. He was expected to serve as the main backup to 2021 All-Star Omar Narváez, filling a void that was created when the Atlanta Braves signed Manny Piña away from Milwaukee.

Other catchers on the Brewers’ 40-man roster are Mario Feliciano and Brett Sullivan. Feliciano has one game of MLB experience and Sullivan has never played in the majors.

President of baseball operations David Stearns said the

Brewers are looking at possible catching options from outside the organization.

“This time of year, this timeframe of a couple of days before opening day, is not ideal to be looking for a specific team need, but we’re already actively engaged in conversations,” Stearns said. “We’ll see if anything comes of that in the next 24-48 hours, and if not, we have confidence in what we have internally.”

Three free agents were suspended Monday following positive tests for Boldenone:

outfielder/first baseman Danny Santana, pitcher Richard Rodríguez and infielder José Rondón. Those were the first suspensions since the major league drug testing program resumed March 11 following a 99-day suspension during the lockout.

All the positive tests resulted from urine samples taken before the lockout started Dec. 2, but MLB concluded it could not announce discipline during the lockout, a person familiar with the testing program told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced.

SFA postpones 18th Mahi-Mahi Derby this weekend

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Fishermen's Association has postponed the 18th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby that was supposed to be held this Saturday, April 9, from 6am to 5pm in the waters around the Northern Marianas.

SFA president Tony Scragg said they had no choice but to put off the fishing tournament due to inclement weather this coming weekend.

"The postponement is due to the bad marine conditions forecasted for this weekend. There has been a small craft advisory issued that extends throughout the weekend," he said.

Scragg said SFA will be meeting to discuss an alternative date and will make an announcement shortly when the 18th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby will be rescheduled.

"As much as we would like the show to go on we need to consider the safety of all participants. It can be very dangerous to be out on the water during these conditions and

that is why small craft advisories are issued and why we must do our part and follow them," he added.

SFA was expecting around 40 boats to take part in this year's derby, which is down from 58 boats that were registered last year.

The 18th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby's prizes include \$2,000 cash for first place, \$1,500 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, and consolation prizes for fourth and fifth places. The registration fee is \$100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and \$25 for each additional angler.



Captain Alvin Iglecias and his crew of five aboard the boat *Trophy* are awarded their \$2,000 cash prize for winning last year's 17th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby at the weighing station of Smiling Cove Marina.

MARK RABAGO

Lady Bombers ease past Lady Tritons, Acdavate defeats Fuetsa

In the Lady Triton Super League on Tuesday night at the UOG Calvo Field House, the Lady Bombers of Andersen Air Force Base had an easy time with the Lady Tritons of the University Guam in the first game of the night, as the Bombers won, 82-17, in a game decided in the first quarter. In the second game of the evening, the Team Acdavate

defeated Team Fuetsa, 63-41, in the nightcap.

The Lady Tritons have had a hard time scoring all season, especially in the first quarter and Tuesday night was no different, the Tritons were shut out in the first quarter and trailed the Bombers, 26-0, after the first 10 minutes of the game.

The Tritons were able to

score in the next three quarters, but the Bombers are just too much for UOG in a battle of the top team in the league and the last place team. The Bombers went on to win, 82-17.

Sophia Hansen led the Lady Bombers with 14 points, while Katie Mueller added 13 points. Tess Wagthuth scored 5 points to lead

the Tritons.

The Bombers are now 6-0 in the Super League; while UOG is 0-6.

In the nightcap of the evening, Acdavate played well and led pretty much the whole night against Fuetsa, with a 19-13 lead after the first quarter and 41-28 at halftime. Fuetsa tried to rebound in the third period, but Acdavate



TENNIS

From Page 20

and I fully support her. She's a vastly improved runner over three years ago and she will be very competitive in that."

Race actually predicted Tan's decision to beg off from tennis a couple of months earlier in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

"There's a situation she might be so competitive now. She knew she'll just be mildly competitive in tennis and only mildly competitive in track and field in 2019. If she feels like she'll be very competitive in track and field, I can totally see her saying

'coach, I would really love to play tennis, but I think it'll be better for me not to be competing in this event and husband my energy in track and field. You have other good players who are playing tennis.' And I will just totally support her in that," he said.

So, it's now down to three players duking out for the last three slots with Miyawaki and Tan pulling out of the tryouts.

"Asia Raulerson, Hye Jin Elliott, and Serin Chung will have a round-robin competition where everybody will play everybody. We can do that in a few days [in May] and we'll know who our next two players are," said Race.

As for the two already slotted women's players, Race said Carol Lee has done a lot of growing since the 2019 Mini Games in Samoa where he and Sinclair won the mixed doubles gold.

"Carol was a real quiet person. She was very nice and quiet and everything. But I think you're going to see Carol taking a bigger leadership role. She's playing No. 1 in her team in one of the top schools in the nation. She's probably developing some leadership skills that will help this team win," Race said of the Georgia Tech standout.

As for Isabel Herras, the

many time NMSA Coach of the Year and Sports Hall of Famer said the Metropolitan State University of Denver varsity player is an excellent doubles player and will form a very dangerous team with Lee.

"Her record this year is solid. She's won her last four doubles matches in a row. She's a good singles player but she's such a very good doubles player because she volleys very well and her returns are really good. Those are the two main things you need in doubles. I think she and Carol, who's undefeated in doubles, will be a very, very tough doubles team. I

say that even if the girls that finished ahead of them in the last Games are coming. I think they'll be in an equal footing or much closer to it."

Earlier, the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president named Sinclair, Samoa veteran Robbie Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey to the men's team for the Mini Games, which is set in the CNMI from June 17 to 25 this year.

For tennis, 128 players are so far booked. The venue for tennis are the American Memorial Park tennis courts in Garapan and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts in San Antonio.

GECKOS

From Page 20

MHS-1 bagged win No. 2 in as many games after downing Kagman High School in the other match last Tuesday, 9-2.

Allyssya Angeles paced the Lady Dolphins with her four goals, making three

straight goals early in the first half to lead the break-away. Pauly Joyce added a hat-trick, while Rizza Relucio and Tamia Hix recorded one goal apiece.

Kagman's pair of goals came from Pia Ngewakl and Janiko Ogo.

In Pool B, the SIS Geckos finished on top of the group

as their earned a 2-0-0 mark following a 12-0 rout of Tinian High School.

Audrey Castro starred in SIS' victory after registering four goals, three of them came in succession, as she closed out strong for the winning squad. Audrey's sister Aubrey, Kaithlyn Chavez, and Pipper Clark added two

goals each, while Hestina Park and Mimi Culm made one apiece.

Meanwhile, Hopwood Middle School placed first in Pool B in the middle school division after taking a 2-0-0 slate.

The Hilitais got win No. 2 over Tinian Junior Senior High last Saturday, 4-2. Su-

sana Arkoh led Hopwood with her three goals, while Jessica Mirafel scored the other goal for the Hilitais. Tinian drew its goals from Karennia Shrestha and Quinani Cruz.

In Pool A, SIS broke into the win column after a 3-0 triumph over Saipan Community School.

Marshall Islands was to serve as the qualifier, but since it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to later in 2023, FIBA Oceania had to organize an alternative qualifier hence the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

With just four teams in the mix, Jenkins said the FIBA Micronesian Cup will adopt a three round-robin format followed by single round finals to determine our champion team and medalists.

LEE

From Page 20

and winning," said Lee.

The NMIBF official said the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup would've been a great opportunity to network with other basketball-loving people from around the region.

"A big part of it is to create great memories and continue to build that long lasting friendship through basketball

especially with our neighboring islands within Micronesia. I hope that COVID-19 will subside by next year and everyone will be able to see each other again at the Micronesian Games held at Marshall Islands," he added.

Far from a finished product as shown by the women's pool's 1-2 win-loss record and the men's pool's 0-3 standing in this past weekend's NMI Friendship Classic hosted by University of

Guam Athletics at the UOG Calvo Field House, Lee said the NMIBF leadership is going all out in making sure that the CNMI national basketball program will develop a competitive team moving forward.

"As far as chances goes, I have full confidence on our national head coaches on leading our athletes to be a competitive team out there and I also have full trust in our athletes, both men and

women, that they will represent NMI the best they can."

With the withdrawal of Kiribati and the Marshall Islands from the meet, the four remaining teams entered in the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup host Guam, the CNMI, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Nauru was the other team invited to take part in the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

Originally, the 2022 Micronesian Games set for the

ditional angler.

Last year, captain Alvin Iglecias and his crew of five aboard the boat *Trophy* won the 17th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby after reeling in an 18.9-lb mahi. Iglecias' team included Ivan Ilmov, Keith Torres, Brandon Echalico, John Jimeno, and Phil Babauta

CAT-SIKA of captain Jesse Sablan landed an 18.2-lb mahi to win second place, while rounding out the Top 3 was *Kingfisher 2* of captain Jun Azarcon with their 17.9-lb catch.

The 18th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby's main sponsor is Budweiser.

held them off and regained a solid lead to end the third period with Acdavate up, 55-34. Acdavate went on to win the game, 63-41.

Crystal Pardilla led Acdavate with 16 points, while Jia Peters added 15. Shae Banez was the only double-digit scorer for Fuetsa with 10 points.

Acdavate improved to 3-3 in the Super League while Fuetsa fell to 3-4.

The Super League returns Thursday night, April 7, with two games as the BallHers take on Fuetsa at 6:30pm and Acdavate battles the Lady Bombers at 8:15pm. The Lady Triton Super League playoffs begin on Saturday, April 16. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	30	.620	—
x-Philadelphia	49	30	.620	—
x-Toronto	46	33	.582	3
Brooklyn	41	38	.519	8
New York	35	44	.443	14

Southeast Division

y-Miami	52	28	.650	—
Atlanta	41	38	.519	10½
Charlotte	40	39	.506	11½
Washington	35	44	.443	16½
Orlando	21	59	.263	31

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	49	30	.620	—
x-Chicago	45	34	.570	4
Cleveland	43	37	.538	6½
Indiana	25	55	.313	24½
Detroit	23	56	.291	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

y-Memphis	55	24	.696	—
x-Dallas	49	30	.620	6
New Orleans	35	44	.443	20
San Antonio	34	45	.430	21
Houston	20	60	.250	35½

Northwest Division

x-Utah	47	32	.595	—
Denver	47	33	.588	½
Minnesota	45	35	.563	2½
Portland	27	52	.342	20
Oklahoma City	24	55	.304	23

Pacific Division

z-Phoenix	63	16	.797	—
x-Golden State	50	29	.633	13
L.A. Clippers	39	40	.494	24
L.A. Lakers	31	48	.392	32
Sacramento	29	51	.363	34½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Booker scores 32,
Suns eliminate
Lakers from
playoff race**
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

**SFA postpones
18th Mahi-
Mahi Derby this
weekend**
PAGE 19



20 THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tennis tryouts down to 3 women

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The women's tryouts for the last two slots for the CNMI National Tennis Team for this year's Pacific Mini Games is now down to just three players.

This, after national coach Jeff Race said that two candidates—Tania Tan and Malika Miyawaki—begged off from the tryouts for different reasons. Race said Tan will be competing in track and field in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, while Miyawaki is busy with her studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Malika has been very busy with her studies so she hasn't had time to adequately train. She is very keen to be a part of the Games though and will be the venue manager at the American Memorial Park tennis courts," he said.

nis courts," he said.

As for Tan, the Fordham University junior said she wants to focus more on track. She also recently was named to the 10-member CNMI National Triathlon Team for the Mini Games.

"Good luck. But you guys don't need my luck because you have Colin Sinclair," was Tan's message to the national tennis team.

The CNMI national tennis coach said Tan has his blessing to concentrate on track and beg off from the tryouts.

"She's focusing on track
See TENNIS on Page 19



Elliot



Chung



Raulerson

Geckos, Rays rout foes in high school ISL

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School and Saipan International Schools notched the lead in their respective pools in the high school division of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League after dominating their opponents at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In Pool A, the Manta Rays hammered Marianas High

School-2 last Tuesday, 14-0, for a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record and the top spot the team standings. MHS-2 is at the bottom with its 0-0-2 mark, while Marianas High School-1 (2-0-0) and Kagman High School (0-0-2) complete the group.

Megan Elayda and Summer Manahane joined forces in powering Saipan Southern to the lopsided victory as they scored five goals apiece.



Elayda took over in the first half for the Rays after making a hat trick, while Manahane picked up where her teammate left off in the second, delivering four in the final half of the game.

Christina Atalig added two goals for Saipan Southern, while Neriah Lumbad and Joselyn Atalig contributed one each.

After their back-to-back wins, the Rays will go for

a pool sweep on Tuesday when they face fellow unbeaten MHS-1.

See GECKOS on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian High School's Cheraline Epity, center, tries to dribble past Saipan International School defenders Elena Stutzman, left, and Stephanie Kim during their game in the high school division of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Lee sad Kiribati, Marshall Islands couldn't go

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even as the CNMI national men's and women's basketball pool are in the thick of preparations for the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam this coming June, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee said it's unfortunate that the field has whittled down to four instead of the original seven.

This comes following Kiribati and the Marshall Islands notifying FIBA Oceania ex-

ecutive director Amanda Jenkins that they won't be able to send their respective delegations to the competition, which will serve as a qualifier for the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands.

"It's sad and unfortunate that our brothers and sisters from the island of Kiribati and Marshall Islands won't be able to join us in the upcoming FIBA Micronesian Cup held in Guam in June due to travel restrictions because of COVID-19. And even though our athletes are there to compete, the spirit of sports is not just competition

See LEE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, right, poses with Guam Basketball Confederation president EJ Calvo, second from left, and secretary general Frank Cruz, second from right, during the NMI Friendship Classic at the University of Guam Calvo Field House this past weekend.



071

DAYS LEFT UNTIL



**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

JUNE 17-25, 2022

